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# Daily Report

# Near East & South Asia

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# Daily Report
## Near East & South Asia

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## 26 September Middle East and South Asia Review

LD2609133188 [Editorial Report]

### Lebanon

**Two 'Governments'**—The new government should not be viewed as the product of a military coup as it exists solely to ensure that a president is elected in total freedom and democracy, "Prime Minister" General Michel 'Awn asserted at a 24 September news conference broadcast by Voice of Lebanon radio.

'Awn said he is "still not a candidate for president," stressing he did not seek the premiership but rather accepted this "impossible mission" because the politicians "threw the ball of fire" into the hands of the military.

On his immediate plans, 'Awn revealed he intends to send an official envoy to Syria and said government employees will be banned from implementing any order issued by the "outgoing" government headed by Salim al-Huss.

'Awn had earlier summoned ambassadors of the five UN Security Council permanent members, the radio reported, noting that the Soviet ambassador did not attend.

The Al-Huss cabinet met the same day in West Beirut and decided to appoint 'Abdallah al-Rasi, a Christian, as deputy prime minister, according to an official statement carried by Beirut radio.

The meeting was also attended by 'Adil 'Usayran, Nabih Birri, and Walid Junblatt, but Ministers Joseph al-Hashim, Victor Qasir, and Joseph Skaf were absent.

The cabinet authorized Defense Minister 'Usayran to send a letter to 'Awn calling on him not to engage in politics and to devote himself to his responsibilities as Army commander and it agreed to send a memorandum to all diplomatic missions abroad explaining the situation.

The radio also broadcast a statement by Al-Huss affirming that his government is the only legitimate government in Lebanon, stressing it intends to administer the country pending the election of a new president.

Al-Huss had earlier told ambassadors of the five UN Security Council permanent members that the 'Awn government is "illegal," the radio noted.

Support for the Al-Huss government was announced by the chief mufti's office, which issued a circular demanding that all officials of Islamic courts and institutions deal with the "legitimate" government in West Beirut, according to Beirut radio.

This was in response to Gen 'Awn's "Circular No 1," which instructed state employees to implement no measures except those required by 'Awn's government.

In remarks broadcast by Damascus television, 'Abdallah al-Rasi noted that the Al-Huss government will likewise issue circulars instructing government employees to abide by its orders.

As for the funding of the rival governments, the Central Bank governor announced he would transfer funds to meet the "basic needs" of both governments, according to the Voice of Lebanon.

Gen 'Awn's government faced a barrage of criticism from press editorials and commentaries carried by Damascus radio.

Syria's AL-THAWRAH said 'Awn's "coup" was an attempt by Lebanon's "Zionized isolationists" to obstruct national reconciliation, the radio said, while AL-BA'TH warned that 'Awn's "secessionist" government has "no chance of life."

The radio also cited the view of presidential candidate Mikha'il Dahir that 'Awn's government is "politically dead."

Among other foreign reaction to developments in Lebanon, the Iranian Cabinet denounced the formation of Gen 'Awn's military government and an Iranian spokesman warned Lebanon is being pushed toward an "explosion" by the "plots" of the United States and Israel, according to IRNA.

Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi urged the Lebanese "masses" to save their country from partition by establishing a "jamahiriyah" and putting an end to factional divisions, JANA reported.

In contrast, Iraq's AL-THAWRAH criticized Syria's interference in Lebanese affairs, claiming that Syria, backed by the United States, "acts in Lebanon like an occupying invader," according to INA.

On the situation of U.S. diplomats, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon noted that 17 U.S. diplomats and employees left the U.S. Embassy premises in 'Awkar 22 September for Cyprus.

Beirut radio reported that U.S. Charge d'Affaires Daniel Simpson was prevented from entering East Beirut 23 September by Lebanese Forces gunmen.

**Israeli Operations in South**—An Israeli Navy patrol killed three "terrorists" in a rubber boat off the Tyre coast 24 September, Jerusalem radio announced.

A PLO spokesman cited by Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio said the Israelis fired at boats carrying medical and food supplies to Al-Rashidiyah Camp.

One of the boats was hit and three men were injured, the spokesman added.

The naval action followed an Israeli Air Force raid on a "terrorist" headquarters east of Sidon the previous afternoon, according to Jerusalem radio.

A Voice of Lebanon report on the attack said the Israeli planes destroyed a Fatah naval base, hit two other Fatah centers in the area of Al-Miyah wa Miyah refugee camp, and targeted a DFLP center in 'Ayn al-Dulb.

The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported two Palestinians were killed and six injured in the raids, which were carried out by Skyhawk and Phantom aircraft.

The Lebanese ambassador to the United Nations submitted a protest to the UN Security Council over the Israeli air and naval actions, Beirut radio noted.

**Afghanistan-Pakistan**

Sixteen Afghan aircraft launched an "unprovoked attack" inside northern Pakistan 23 September, dropping bombs which killed five Pakistani villagers and injured five others, Islamabad radio announced.

Pakistan lodged a strong protest over the raid, which took place in the Dir region north of Peshawar, and informed the Afghan authorities that they will be fully responsible for the "serious consequences" of further attacks.

Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan likewise warned Pakistan will shoot down more Afghan aircraft if violations continue in the future, according to the radio.

Sources in Peshawar cited by AFP noted that Pakistani planes chased the Afghan aircraft but were unable to intervene before the intruders reached Afghan airspace.

However, the Afghan Foreign Ministry subsequently denied the whole story, informing the Pakistani charge d'affaires in Kabul that reports of a 23 September Afghan air attack inside Pakistan are a "slander" and "untrue," according to Kabul radio.

The Afghan side also lodged a protest over an alleged Pakistani violation of Afghan airspace the same day.

On the military situation in Afghanistan, a commentator on Moscow television 25 September acknowledged there is a continuing trend toward "deterioration" and said the opposition is using U.S.-supplied rockets with a 20-km range in its frequent bombardments of Kabul.

Another rocket attack on residential areas of the city injured two children 25 September, Kabul radio announced.

Among reports from Pakistan, the Afghan opposition party Jamiat-e Eslami stated its commander Ismail Khan narrowly escaped assassination by Afghan Government agents in a 20 September ambush in the Herat area of northwest Afghanistan, according to AFP.

Khan reportedly refused an offer earlier this year to join a coalition administration in Kabul.

In Peshawar, eight people were injured by a bomb explosion in a bus depot 25 September, Islamabad radio announced.

**Iran**

Preparedeness for war has become "more vital" as the "enemies of God" are "constantly alert" and "lie in ambush to destroy all that is godly," Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni warned in a message broadcast by Tehran radio.

Meanwhile, 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces, said it is "still not fully clear" whether the war with Iraq has ended, IRNA noted.

On Iran's missile power, Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated in a Friday sermon carried by the radio that missiles are "the most important weapons today" and Iran has "solved the most important problems regarding the missile industries."

The question now is what and how many missiles to manufacture, he added.

In a related development reported by the radio, the construction jihad minister announced Iran has completed testing the "largest and longest-range domestically manufactured missiles" and that preparations are under way to mass produce them.

In London THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH revealed Iran has made informal inquiries about the possible purchase of British Hawk trainers or Franco-German Alpha-Jet trainers to rebuild its Air Force.

The paper added, however, that Britain is likely to receive "coolly" any Iranian request to buy military aircraft.

An IRNA report from London noted Britain is expected to restore diplomatic relations with Iran following an upcoming meeting between the British and Iranian foreign ministers in New York.

### PLO/Palestinian Issue

Israel has misinterpreted PLO statements on the 1947 UN partition resolution to make it seem that the PLO lays claim to lands within Israel's pre-1967 borders, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf stated in remarks cited by KUNA.

The PLO is not talking about the borders set out in this resolution, but is merely basing the legitimacy for a Palestinian state on it, he said.

Khalaf added the Palestinians want a state in the West Bank and Gaza, stressing that "because we are realistic, the 1967 borders are the subject of negotiation."

Meanwhile, Cairo's AL-JUMHURIYAH predicted the PLO will proclaim "independence" and a Palestinian "state" on 15 October.

In London, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak urged the PLO to clarify "the bases and the boundaries" of this state before announcing it to the world, MENA reported.

He said the PLO should coordinate with Jordan and other Arab states in this regard.

Mubarak was speaking to journalists following talks with Jordan's King Husayn, who likewise called for the "crystallization of a Palestinian stand first," the agency noted.

### Israel

Seventeen Arabs were wounded during clashes with the IDF in the territories 23-25 September, according to Jerusalem radio.

A girl wounded by plastic bullets in an earlier confrontation died in an East Jerusalem hospital 24 September, the radio noted.

A "Palestinian-American" was shot dead near Ramallah the previous day, but the motive for the killing remained unclear, THE JERUSALEM POST disclosed.

Five Arab women holding U.S. citizenship will shortly be deported to Jordan because of their suspected involvement in a demonstration, Jerusalem radio revealed.

The radio also noted that security forces have uncovered the Palestinian Communist Party's "secret printing house" near Jerusalem.

During his visit to France, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres announced he is ready to "leave" the Gaza Strip as well as "some parts" of the West Bank, Paris radio reported.

### Sudan

An SPLA attack on Juba is "imminent" and all foreigners and civilians inside Juba should leave the town immediately for their own safety, the SPLA's clandestine radio announced 23 September.

The radio also warned that all types of aircraft should keep away from Juba because SPLA commanders have orders to fire at any aircraft in this area.

SPLA forces are within 4 miles of Juba Airport and have deployed missiles and antiaircraft guns "within range of any type of aircraft at any altitude" over Juba.

The SPLA's advance toward Juba follows its seizure 16 September of the "strategic" garrison at Jabal Lado, 25 km north of Juba Airport, the radio said.

### Libya-Chad

Libya released Chadian POW's and handed them over to an OAU representative during a 22 September ceremony reported by JANA.

A Libyan Foreign Liaison Bureau official told those present the initiative aims to achieve a rapid establishment of "efficient diplomatic relations with the Chadian people" and to ensure "fruitful bilateral cooperation" between the two countries.

However, TANJUG disclosed that only 10 prisoners were released to the OAU during the ceremony, as "technical repatriation details" of the other POW's are still to be settled.

The authorities in Ndjamena have refused to accept the credibility of the list of over 300 prisoners given by Libya and have stated that only 30 are genuine Chadian POW's, TANJUG added.

A Chadian official cited by AFP confirmed his government only recognized "a few dozen" names on the Libyan list, stressing it is "out of the question" to compare this release with the release of Libyan POW's in Chad.

## Inter-Arab Affairs

### Tunisian Minister on Maghreb Meeting's Outcome

*LD2509132588 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Excerpt] The Maghreb subcommittee for social, human and security affairs concluded its meetings this afternoon in Tunis. On this occasion, a grand ceremony was organized, headed by Tunisian Interior Minister Habib Ammar, chairman of the Tunisian delegation, during which the heads of the five countries' delegations signed the minutes of the meetings of the subcommittee in the presence of the members of delegations.

The minutes of the meetings were signed by Habib Ammar on the Tunisian side; by Algerian Interior Minister Hadi Khediri for Algeria; Mr Fawzi al-Shakshuki, secretary of the General People's Committee for Public Service, for Libya; Moroccan Minister of Interior and Information Driss Basri for Morocco; and by Mohamed Salem Ould Mohamed Lemine, minister of justice, on the Mauritanian side.

Mr Habib Ammar said the subcommittee's work was successful thanks to the clarity of the political vision of the Maghreb leaders and the conviction of all officials of the inevitability of the building of the Maghreb. He said the decisions and resolutions of the two working groups set up during the meeting are of extreme importance, given that most of them can be carried out quickly.

Mr Habib Ammar said the subcommittee overcame all problems and agreed on the principle of abolishing visas between Maghreb countries, emphasizing that this will be carried out soon between Maghreb countries.

Mr Habib Ammar pointed out there was agreement on all topics on the agenda of the subcommittee, including the opening up of wider scopes for Maghreb citizens regarding all that concerns their daily lives, the realization of a large and comprehensive security program on the Maghreb level, the protection of Maghreb minorities abroad, and decisions pertaining to fighting pests and natural disasters. [passage omitted]

### Arabsat Head on Israeli Satellite, Legalities

*JN2309170088 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 21 Sep 88, p 1, 22*

[Text] Riyadh—After Israel launched its first satellite the day before yesterday, news agencies reported that it is a spy satellite and will convey very accurate information on Arab countries without depending on the United States.

The newspaper AL-QABAS asked Prof 'Abd al-Qadir Dhu'ayri, director general of the Arab League's Arab Corporation for Space Telecommunications, "Arabsat", about this satellite and how true reports were on it.

He said: This satellite was launched the day before yesterday at 0930 GMT. It looks as though it has spying functions, even though the first reports we got were that it is a trial satellite whose lifetime is short—1 month at most. The real satellite will be launched within 1-3 years of this date. The orbit of this satellite is not steady; it is on a low level and varies between 250-1000 km.

On the legalities concerning Israel's launching of the new satellite, Dhu'ayri said:

From the point of view of the international law concerning launching satellites, the applicable law is to coordinate with the concerned parties before launching, which is an obligatory thing. This can be done through the Geneva-based International Telecommunications Union.

As for the experimental satellites, it seems there is no law concerning those with a varying orbit.

When asked whether launching this satellite was a surprise to them, he answered:

Yes, it was a surprise to us. Since we are an Arab corporation for space telecommunications, we have been following up for a long time satellite news all over the world, especially Israel with its "African and Mediterranean Basin" project.

However, this satellite was for civilian telecommunications purposes, no more. Finally we realized that the functions of this satellite were changed from civilian telecommunications to spying. Launching this satellite without prior notification was a surprise to the whole world.

We are now waiting for additional information and further details on this subject so we can give a clearer opinion on the dimensions of this satellite as far as the Arab countries are concerned and the Arab satellite.

AL-QABAS asked Prof Dhu'ayri on the possibility of jamming the satellite through the technology available to the Arab satellite, Arabsat. He replied:

Jamming is available against any satellite in space. It requires knowledge of the constituents of the satellite, its orbit, and its frequencies. This information is not available to us yet and we are working toward obtaining it to take measures in the interest of the Arab satellite, Arabsat, and the Arab world in general.

We are seeking to obtain further information on this subject, form a more precise picture of it, and study it along with the extent of the need to take certain measures toward protecting everyone.

On the possible legal measures which the Arab countries or Arabsat could take in case the orbit of the Israeli satellite was fixed, Dhu'ayri said: I cannot answer this question now because we are still holding contacts with the concerned sides to collect as much information as possible.

We are trying to deal with the situation logically and calmly, because the purpose is to find out more information about the satellite and the possible steps we could take.

The ultimate aim is to protect the interests of the Arab countries and Arabsat out of principle, because we, in this corporation, are at the service of the Arab countries and are here to protect anything that has to do with the Arab project or the Arab satellite.

## Palestinian Affairs

### PLO To Proclaim State, Independence 15 Oct

*JN2509134988 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 24 Sep 88 pp 1, 2*

[Text] AL-JUMHURIYAH has learned that President Husni Mubarak will meet with Jordan's Monarch King Husayn in London tomorrow, Sunday, to hold talks on the Middle East issue and to coordinate efforts among Egypt, Jordan, and the PLO to give a push forward to the peace process and to hold the international conference.

Al-JUMHURIYAH also learned a meeting will be held between the Jordanian monarch and the PLO chairman within the next few days for the same purpose.

It is to be recalled that President Husni Mubarak received Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat in Cairo before his European tour.

The Palestinian leader presented to the president the PLO's plan of action during the coming period. He also briefed him on his European tour, on his address to the European Parliament in Strasbourg, and on his meeting with the French foreign minister.

AL-JUMHURIYAH also learned the PLO will proclaim the establishment of a Palestinian state and declare independence on 15 October.

It also learned that Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat will hold a meeting with the foreign ministers of the 12 EEC member states to discuss with them his position on the peace process and the Palestinian people's rights and to urge them to support the Palestinian right to independence and a state.

This activity will be accompanied by other Palestinian moves demonstrated by meetings of the PLO Executive Committee and the PLO Central Council, in addition to the convening of the PNC—"the Palestinian parliament"—in Algeria in October, to which a plan of action will be submitted.

### 'Arafat on Talks With Mubarak, Peace Issues

*NC2409043088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2116 GMT 23 Sep 88*

[Text] Cairo, 23 Sep (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has described his meeting with President Husni Mubarak as being friendly as usual and said it had produced positive results.

In an interview with Egyptian television tonight, 'Arafat said the meeting had dealt with numerous issues and events in light of the current conflicting developments in the Arab region in general and on the Palestine scene in particular.

He noted that the Palestinian people's blessed uprising, which constitutes a popular revolution in the full sense of the word, is currently escalating.

'Arafat urged Israel, if it really wants peace, to agree to an international peace conference, noting that such a conference enjoys international acceptance.

He pointed out that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's call to hold a conference in Cairo to be attended by Palestinians and representatives of Egypt, Jordan, and Israel is designed to grant only autonomy to the Palestinians.

'Arafat said the Israeli leaders and people must accept an international peace conference without preconditions. He declared, however, that if they are seeking surredner it is out of their grasp, because there is no one who is ready to surrender.

'Arafat said he is only demanding that legitimate international resolutions be implemented so a just peace can be attained and the Palestinian people, who have lost their land, identity, and nationality, can obtain their rights.

He noted that international legitimacy includes all UN resolutions pertaining to the issue, including Resolution 242.

'Arafat remarked that the United States and Europe based their recognition of Israel on Resolution 181, which provides for the establishment of an Arab Palestinian state and a Jewish state.

He asked: Is it logical to recognize merely half a resolution?

'Arafat stated: The Palestinian uprising will continue, God willing, until victory is achieved.

He added Israel will not be able to stop it, noting that for the last 10 months Palestinian children have faced the greatest arsenal in the Middle East with stones and slings.

Concerning the convening of the PNC to discuss the provisional Palestinian government issue, 'Arafat said that, so we may reach a totally correct decision, the Palestinian leadership is in a state of permanent session and the Legal and Political Committee is studying with the help of some friends who are international experts the available options, which he noted are seven.

He also noted that errors are neither wanted nor permitted at this critical stage and historic moment of deciding whether we will exist or not.

On the prospects of the Palestinian factions agreeing on one final decision, 'Arafat referred to the democratic method which the PLO adopts and said there are various interpretations, adding: I give my opinion after everyone else does and in the end the majority view is adopted.

He asserted there is agreement within the Palestinian command on all the steps that will be adopted inside and outside [the occupied territories].

### PLO's Khalaf on Recognition of Pre-1967 Israel

*LD2309153188 Kuwait KUNA in English 1440 GMT 23 Sep 88*

[Text] Washington, Sept 23 (KUNA)—The PLO's second- in-command, Salah Khalaf, said here Friday that Israel has been misinterpreting the organization's statements, making it seem as thought the PLO still (?lays claim) to lands within Israel as well as the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Khalaf, also known as Abu Iyad, said the PLO has no intention of using the 1947 United Nations resolution partitioning Palestine as a basis for negotiating the borders of a Palestinian state.

"We are not talking about borders set out in this resolution. We are only taking from it our legitimacy. We cannot ignore the U.N. partition resolution 181 because it is the sole resolution that the superpowers have agreed upon that gives us the right to establish a state."

According to Abu Iyad, "Arab rejection at that time was a mistake. We should not have to bear the mistakes of ancient leaderships. We have already suffered for 40 years because of those mistakes."

He added, "If there is a Palestinian state in Gaza and the West Bank, will it absorb all Palestinians? The answer is no. But at least such a state would give all Palestinians a national identity."

He concluded, "The Americans and the Israelis know very well that what we want is a Palestinian state in Gaza and the West Bank. Because we are realistic, the 1967 borders are the subject of negotiation."

### Fatah Group Forms 'Palestinian Popular Army'

*NC2609085088 Nicosia AL-NASR in Arabic 20 Sep 88 p 1*

[Text] AL-NASR has learned that the [Fatah] Force 17 command inside the occupied territories has succeeded in forming "the Palestinian Popular Army," which has already commenced its operations.

This army will serve as the military arm of the blessed popular revolution which has been raging for 9 months.

This revolution has entered its 10th month with more strength and determination to continue the struggle until the occupation has been defeated and a national independent state has been set up under the PLO.

It is reported that the purpose of the formation of the Palestinian Popular Army is to mobilize the entire Palestinian society to wage a protracted popular war.

## Egypt

### Mubarak Continues European Tour, Meets Leaders

#### Meets Husayn, Howe in London

*NC2509190188 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 25 Sep 88*

[Text] President Husni Mubarak met with King Husayn of Jordan at a luncheon at King Husayn's residence in London today. The two leaders resumed consultations on developments in the Arab arena and ways of coordinating efforts to consolidate the Middle East peace process.

President Mubarak then met with British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffery Howe this evening in the presence of Egyptian Ambassador in London Muhammad Shakir.

After the meeting, which lasted about an hour, the British foreign secretary said that his talks with President Mubarak had covered a large number of issues relating to foreign policy. The talks, he added, dealt with the Middle East situation, the process of reaching an end to the Iraq-Iran war, and other topics.

The president later headed for the Egyptian Embassy in London, where he met with chief editors of Egyptian newspapers, members of the Egyptian Embassy staff and its technical offices, and members of the Egyptian community in Britain to inform them of the objectives and expected results of his current tour.

#### Discusses Palestinian State

*NC2509213688 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2005 GMT 25 Sep 88*

[Text] London, 25 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and Jordan's King Husayn have emphasized that Egypt and Jordan have the same view and stand on all issues that concern the Arab homeland.

In statements to the newspaper AL-AHRAM to be published tomorrow, the two leaders stressed the need for crystallization and definition of a Palestinian stand after consultations and coordination with Jordan, as well as for the clarification of the foundations of the Palestinian state before declaring it, so that we may support this issue with all our capabilities.

President Mubarak said: I still emphasize that consultations and serious action at present are important. I have often said so to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, because consultations and coordination between the PLO and Jordan are imperative, as is consultation with the rest of the Arab states.

The president indicated that, prior to this, the Palestinian factions should agree on specific points and then consult and agree with the rest of the Arab world.

President Mubarak added: I reiterate that a Palestinian stand must be crystallized and coordination with Jordan and then with the rest of the Arab states must continue.

Without this, we as Arabs will not be able to act in the world, because we must have a basis on which to act. Lacking this, the president asked, on what basis can we act?

President Husni Mubarak said: Before the declaration of a Palestinian state, we all must comprehend what the bases and the boundaries of this state are instead of providing these points just before the Israeli and U.S. elections and engaging in one-upmanship and losing the issue.

The president asserted that the situation now requires care and accuracy of every word that is uttered.

On the affirmation in the press that Tabah will be restored to Egyptian sovereignty this coming Thursday, President Mubarak said: Naturally we hope that the verdict will be in our favor. We shall wait for the verdict. Do not ask for my opinion. The important thing is the court's opinion.

Meanwhile, Jordan's King Husayn emphasized in his statement that Egypt and Jordan have identical views and stands on all issues.

He said: We implore God to grant us success in performing our duty in all issues and developments for the sake of our people in the great Arab homeland.

The Jordanian King expressed his gratitude to President Mubarak for providing the opportunity for this meeting. He said: I thank his excellency the president for having given me this new opportunity to hear his views and remarks, especially as I have been away from the area for several weeks. However, I affirm that we have one stand and one view.

On the Arab action during the present phase and the European reaction to this, King Husayn said:

I agree with President Mubarak on the need for the crystallization of a Palestinian stand first. After the Palestinian stand is crystallized, we will be able to support the Palestinian cause with all our capabilities and resources.

King Husayn concluded his statements by saying: The world is waiting and we too are waiting.

#### Addresses Citizens in London

*NC2609084488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0655 GMT 26 Sep 88*

[Text] London, 26 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stressed that Egypt must always play a leading role, let its opinion and views be heard through the world, have international standing, and have contacts with both the East; and the West.

At a meeting with members of the Egyptian community in London last night, the president asserted that Egypt's relations with various countries, Eastern and Western alike, are good and that its relations with the Arabs are excellent.

The president pointed out that his current tour of Europe is a continuation of dialogue with the leaders of these countries. He denied that the tour is linked with the meetings of the IMF, explaining that it had been previously arranged.

He added that talks during this tour have not touched on economic issues, but on the Gulf war, the Middle East issue, and ways to help Brother Sudan overcome the crisis resulting from the floods.

The president said that direct dialogue with the leaders of these countries is very useful, adding that Egypt's foreign policy ultimately aims to serve development in Egypt.

With regard to the Tabah issue, the president pointed out that the arbitration panel has already concluded the legal proceedings and that the final verdict wil be announced at a world news conference this Thursday [29 September]

As far as the war production authority is concerned, the president said it owns excellent factories and its hardware products are technologically sophisticated and impress everyone. He asserted that the authority has not suspended its production or interrupted its activity.

Touching on the issue of Egyptian prisoners in Iran, President Mubarak said that the fishermen who had been detained already have been released. As for the Egyptians who worked in Iraq and are now held prisoner by Iran, their problem, he added, will be resolved along with that of the Iraqi POW's, within the framework of peace negotiations between Iran and Iraq. He said that the terms which will be applied to Iraqi POW's will apply to them as well.

Speaking about economic reform in Egypt, the president stressed that he speaks frankly so the public may know the truth. He said we are getting on with reform gradually.

The president noted that Egypt's civilian debts and the interest on them amount to $27 billion, and that military debts and the interest on them have reached $14 billion.

The president added that we are obliged to borrow in order to establish the infrastructure. We also have to borrow in view of the high rate of population growth, he said. He asserted that every penny of that debt has been spent properly.

President Husni Mubarak explained it is not possible to maintain prices at their current level and raise salaries at the same time, as some people may think.

He said the sum spent on subsidies used to be small in the past, but with the increase in population to 50 million people, the sum spent by the government on subsidies now exceeds 10 billion [Egyptian] pounds. He said the state supplies a subsidy for petroleum derivatives amounting to nearly 5 billion pounds, or "$3 billion."

He noted that the total sum spent on subsidies currently amounts to 10.5 billion pounds, at a time when Egypt's revenues are merely 18 billion pounds. He noted that, meanwhile, we have to proceed with steps for economic reform.

President Husni Mubarak said school grants used to cost the government about 500 million pounds and cost the private sector about 200 million pounds.

He explained that continuing to extend these grants would lead to price rises because 500 million pounds entering the market all at once will raise prices by about 30 percent. He said that it is difficult for prices to go back to what they were before.

He noted that the latest salary increase cost the state more than 1 billion pounds. He said he had exerted pressure on the government to make it a 15 percent increase, as it will include the school grant.

President Husni Mubarak urged the Egyptian people not to burden the state with more than it can bear and aded that it is difficult to extend the grant because there is a budget deficit.

He added that the state is absorbing an increase in the prices of wheat, rice, sugar, tea, and maize amounting to more than 1 billion pounds. His excellency cited as an example the subsidy of electric powr, saying that a kilowatt/hour costs 10.5 piasters, but the consumer only pays an average of 3.5 piasters of this.

President Mubarak stressed that prices are rising worldwide, not merely in Egypt, and said Egypt is not an isolated island. He remarked that the state always takes the complaints of the poor into account, but disregards the complaints of the well-to-do.

President Husni Mubarak affirmed that the state constantly confronts corruption and does not cover it up. Indeed, it refers any case of corruption to the courts, which it respects, he said. He noted that the extent of corruption in Egypt is less than in any other country and pointed out that there is corruption in both socialist and capitalist countries.

Referring to capital investment companies, President Husni Mubarak asserted that the government does not confiscate anyone's money and all that concerns it is to know where the depositors' money is going. He added: We reached a critical stage where we were forced to intervene to protect the depositors' money.

He explained that all the capital investment companies are required to do is to amend their status and function in accordance with the laws for the good of Egyptian citizens.

With regard to family planning efforts in Egypt, President Mubarak said that the state is making efforts in this respect, but noted that results are slow in coming because of limited resources.

### Leaves London for Paris

*NC2609140488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1333 GMT 26 Sep 88*

[Excerpt] London, 26 Sep (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak left London for Paris this afternoon as part of his current European tour. While in London, he met with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher; Sir Geoffrey Howe, secretary of state for foreign and Commonwealth affairs; Mr Waldegrave, minister of state for foreign and Commonwealth affairs, and opposition party leader Neil Kinnock.

Mubarak also met with king Husayn of Jordan and Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman. [passage omitted]

### Ghali Refutes Israeli Report Citing Mubarak

*NC2209144588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1403 GMT 22 Sep 88*

[Text] Belgrade, 22 Sep (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has strongly denounced a report published by an Israeli paper saying that President Husni Mubarak had told the Israeli ambassador in Cairo that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn is willing to make peace with Israel.

In an exclusive interview with a MENA correspondent in Belgrade, Dr Ghali asserted that this report is completely false and groundless, and that it shows the cheap methods adopted by the Israeli press to drive a wedge among the Arab brothers, instead of facing up to the regrettable reality represented in acts of repression and discrimination against the Palestinian people, struggling for their dignity and their right to self-determination.

It is worth noting that Dr Ghali is accompanying President Husni Mubarak on his visit to Yugoslavia.

## Libya

### Al-Qadhdhafi Appeals for Lebanese 'Jamahiriyah'

*LD2309214388 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1830 GMT 23 Sep 88*

[Text] Tripoli 23 Sep (JANA)—JANA has learned that the brother leader of the revolution addressed an appeal to the masses of the fraternal Lebanese people to turn the Lebanon into a people's Jamahiriyah by establishing basic people's congresses and popular committees and general people's congress of the Lebanese people consisting of secretaries, popular committees and vocational federations and leagues.

The brother leader of the revolution pointed out to the popular Lebanese masses the need to form a general popular committee, disregarding religion and factionalism for the sake of saving Lebanon from partition into several statelets.

By carrying out this great action to manifest their aspirations and desires, the Lebanese people will thus be expressing an ability and their awareness of the perils that surround them.

By embodying full people's authority the Lebanese people will be finally cutting off the road to all the factional strife and will create a patriotic climate with horizons of a new Lebanese life.

The hostile plots which engulfed the Lebanese people is aimed basically at dismembering elements of the social structure of that great nation to divide it into weak parts based on elements of factionalism and religious segregation.

Lebanon's emergence from factional domination will only come through the Lebanese masses taking over complete control of their resources, and this is done through achievement of the popular authority and direct popular democracy.

Thus the Lebanese people will end a tyrannical period in their life and will realize in its place the people authority without any representation or delegation. They will also realize this modern example of direct democracy.

By this action, the Lebanese people will be putting a final end to the threads of imperialist, Zionist conspiracy and finally cutting down this serious conspiracy aimed at Lebanon and the Arab nation.

### Chadian Prisoners Handed Over to OAU Official

*LD2309210588 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1815 GMT 23 Sep 88*

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 23 Sep (JANA)—Proceeding from the gift offered by the brother leader of the revolution on Africa Day, and on the occasion of the OAU silver jubilee, the Chadian prisoners have been released.

A ceremony was held during which the Chadian prisoners were handed over to the representative of the OAU secretary general. [passage omitted]

The representative of the OAU secretary general made a speech on this occasion. He expressed high appreciation for the efforts of the brother leader of the revolution for resolving the Chadian problem, saying: Our presence here comes in the wake of the courageous initiative of the brother leader of the revolution.

This move, he said, will serve toward settling the Chadian question and normalizing relations between the Great Jamahiriyah and Chad.

He concluded: We hope that dialogue will continue so that it may lead to a happy ending for this problem. This is indeed the hope of all African peoples.

One of the released prisoners made an address, saying: I take advantage of this occasion to convey to you the greetings of my Chadian colleagues, and to greet Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi for his initiative on the 25th OAU anniversary to resolve the Chadian problem, which is an African problem that should be tackled by Africans.

I hope, he said, that there will be reciprocity so that these problems may be resolved, and we hope that the Chadian problem will be definitively settled.

The director of the African desk at the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison made an address, saying:

I am pleased to welcome you today to the ceremony for the release of the Chadian prisoners and their handing over to the OAU. It is a happy occasion that embodies the credibility of the initiative of the brother leader of the great 1 September revolution to mark the 25th anniversary of the founding of the OAU to find a solution to the Chadian problem. It also shows that Africans are able to resolve their problems with an African spirit and in an African context. [passage omitted]

He further said: We also take advantage of this occasion to affirm to the world that the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah maintains its commitment to realize the objectives of the initiative, such as a rapid establishment of efficient diplomatic relations with the Chadian people, and ensuring fruitful bilateral cooperation that will reduce the consequences of the civil war that has destroyed all domains of life in Chad.

Libya is still committed to do whatever it can to strengthen good-neighborly ties between the fraternal Arab Libyan and Chadian peoples. If asked, the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah will spare no effort to bring viewpoints closer in order to conclude national reconciliation between the Chadian brothers.

It believes that building peace and national unity in Chad is necessary at this stage of development. This would also prevent colonialism from exploiting the situation to intervene and to become party to the conflict in its frenzied effort to internationalize the Chad question, and to turn this country into a base for aggression against the progressive states in the continent. [passage omitted]

### POW Exchange 'in Question'

*LD2309204488 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1631 GMT 23 Sep 88*

[Text] Tripoli, Sept 23 (TANJUG)—The exchange of prisoners of war between Libya and Chad, through the committee of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) for Chad, is in question although Tripoli—as a sign of goodwill—released 10 Chadian prisoners of war to the OAU yesterday.

Unofficial sources here say that transport planes are waiting at several Libyan airports to transfer the POWs whose names are on a list which Libya gave to the OAU chairman, but the chances that the prisoners will leave soon are slim.

OAU general-secretary representative Amadou Bah yesterday said at a ceremony when the first group of POWS was released, that technical repatriation details of the others are still to be settled.

Well-informed circles in Tripoli say that the process will take longer because Ndjamena has refused to accept as credible Libya's list of POWs.

Military authorities in Ndjamena say that only 30 POWs on Libya's list were "real prisoners of war" while the remaining 300 were either not prisoners of war or they were not from Chad.

The exchange of prisoners, as the first step to other measures towards lasting peace in Chad, is not going the way it is supposed to.

Chad, which has some 2,500 Libyan POWs, claims that only around 50 Chadian troops are being held in Libya.

## Morocco

### UN Representative Comments on Peace Plan

*LD2109123388 Rabat MAP in English 1159 GMT 21 Sep 88*

[Text] New York, Sept 21, (MAP)—The UN Security Council Tuesday unanimously approved the peace plan on the Sahara proposed by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and entitled [Perez] de Cuellar to appoint a special representative to supervise the referendum.

At the end of the Security Council meeting, Moroccan permanent representative to the UN made the following statement:

"By unanimously adopting the Resolution 621 (1988), the Security Council backs without reservation the good offices mission of UN secretary general and confirms the first results reached by the mission last August 30."

"In entitling the secretary general to appoint a special representative, the council encourages him to carry on his mission and submit to the council a global plan on the modalities of the referendum and on the necessary means for its organization and supervision."

"The resolution, which enhances the process started by the secretary general, is an important step of the evolving toward a fair and equitable settlement of the Sahara issue. We can envisage with optimism the establishment of a definite peace in the Sahara to the benefit of a harmonious and integrated development of the Maghreb."

## Sudan

### Al-Mahdi Leaves for YAR, PDRY 24 Sep

*JN2409113288 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1050 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Sep (SUNA)—Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi left for Sanaa this morning on a 4-day visit to the YAR during which he will join the Yemeni people in their celebrations of the anniversary of the 26 September revolution.

He is due to follow this by a visit to the PDRY [words indistinct] to 29 September within his tour of Arab countries to extend thanks for their relief to Sudan during the catastrophe of floods and rains that recently swept the country.

### Minister Warns of 'Danger' of Israeli Satellite

*JN2409121488 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1045 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Sep (SUNA)—Public Communications Minister Dr Taj al-Sirr Mustafa has warned against the danger of spy Israeli satellite "Ofeq 1" and the risks that will result from its launching. He stressed the need for adopting a common stand on this issue.

The launching of the satellite, he said, constitutes a danger to the strategic security of the Arab, Islamic, and African countries as well as to the entire world.

He said Israel is attempting to gather information that would help it in its spying and military acts in accordance with its ambitions and aggressive endeavors.

He said the launching of the Israeli satellite will also have diplomatic and political implications as there are countries dealing with the satellite. The launching of the satellite, he added, was surrounded with much mystery as far as technicalities and field of work are considered.

It is to be noted that the Israeli space agency announced last week that it successfully launched its first satellite into space on 19 September. It described the satellite as experimental and aimed for civilian purposes.

This report appeared in today's issue of AL-SUDANI.

### Reportage on Fighting Between Government, SPLA

#### Government Convoy 'Ambushed'

*LD2209213388 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Cholo 1100 GMT 22 Sep 88*

[Excerpts] It has been reported to Radio SPLA from Equatoria, where SPLA forces are under the overall command of Commander John Kong Nyon, that the enemy convoy escorted by the Jundi al-Watan forces was ambushed between (Limbe) and Juba after being reinforced from Yei.

The ambush was conducted by Shakkush Battalions Nos 1, 2, and 3 from 9 to 11 September. Fighting is in progress. [as heard]

The enemy is reported to have suffered great human and material casualties. Among those killed were three officers, one of whom was identified as Captain (Al-Sirr Hasan al-Husayn), a military intelligence officer in Yei. Many others sustained serious injuries.

In another development, an SPLA correspondent said that four enemy soldiers from the south were found on the battlefield. They had been shot from behind. This proved they were shot by their own colleagues.

The correspondent went on to say that the forces of Jundi al-Watsan are now divided between northerners and southerners and are practically killing one another.

Two citizens were rescued by the SPLA after being tied to a tree by Al-Sadiq Al-Mahdi's Army. They were accused of being members of the SPLA. [passage omitted]

The corespondent said that four vehicles were destroyed and five captured in good condition and loaded with food. The food was distributed by the SPLA to the citizens in the area. It is also said that the northern traders in Yei have left the area because of the split in the Army. [passage omitted]

#### 92 Rebels Killed

*EA2309113688 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 Sep 88*

[Text] Our Armed Forces in the operations zones in the southern part of the country this week confronted a number of attempts and the escalation of military operations of the rebel movement.

Our forces confronted a rebel force attempting to approach Jabal Lado in Equatoria. They clashed with it and chased it out of the area. Our forces killed 25 rebels. They also captured a number of arms and quantities of ammunition.

In West Equatoria, our forces confronted bands of outlaws while combing the area. The battle resulted in 45 rebels killed. Our forces captured nine Kalashnikov guns

and an RPG gun and quantities of ammunition. Friendly forces in the Upper Nile area also managed to carry out operations in the Watt area. Their results are as follows:

Twenty-two rebels killed and 60 rifles, 2 anti-aircraft guns, and quantities of arms captured.

### SPLA Warns Juba Aircraft

*EA2309151988 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 23 Sep 88*

[Text] The strategic enemy garrison of Jabal Lado, about 25 km north of Juba airport, has fallen into the hands of SPLA forces of Infijar [explosion], under the overall command of Commander Kuol Manyang Juk, alternate member of SPLM/SPLA political-military high command and zonal commander of central south Sudan, and the direct command of Alternate Commander Joseph Akech, Alternate Commander Dominic Deng, Alternate Commander Dut Domkoch Malwal, Alternate Commander Daniel Deng Mony, Alternate Commander Rustom Ali Mustafa.

The garrison fell at exactly 0500 Sudan local time on Friday 16 September 1988. An unknown size of enemy force was scattered, leaving behind one 42 machine-gun, number 1353/9, with a good quantity of ammunition.

Two days after the occupation of Jabal Lado, Infijar special forces advanced southwards and raided Juba airport Mobil station and carried out a fierce attack on an enemy outpost at [word indistinct] next to Juba airport. Details of the attack on Juba airport and the surrounding areas will follow as soon as they arrive at Radio SPLA.

Meanwhile, a correspondent accompanying Infijar reports that a special SPLA engineering unit under the command of Captain Malek Ruben Riak advanced and blew up the strategic bridge across Luri River on Juba-Maridi road.

The commander in chief and chairman, SPLA/SPLM, Comrade John Garang de Mabior has sent his revolutionary greetings and congratulations to Infijar forces and urged them on as an order to accomplish their mission.

In another development, Infijar forces, that are in a distance of 1-hour walk or 4 miles to Juba airport and residential areas, warn foreigners and civilians inside Juba to move outside the town immediately for their own safety. The attack on Juba is imminent.

All types of planes are warned to keep out of Juba and surrounding airspace. SPLA now has in position SAM and cannon anti-aircraft guns around Juba airport, within range of any type of aircraft at any altitude.

Any aircraft, military or otherwise, will be hit and full orders are issued to the (?battery) commanders.

This warning is in effect from 1500 Friday, 23 September 1988. Noncompliance with this order is criminal negligence.

This warning was signed by the Infijar commander and approved by the SPLA military high command.

### Rebels Claim Capture of Keyala

*LD2609145988 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 26 Sep 88*

[Text] A military spokesman of SPLA High Command today announced that SPLA forces of Bright Star Campaign have achieved their second major military victory in weeks.

The vital, strategic enemy garrison town of Keyala, 24 miles east of Torit, was overrun last night at 2200, 25th September 1988, in a swift storm attack. Keyala is the second largest enemy army garrison next to Torit in the eastern bank of Eastern Equatoria.

The general headquarters Khartoum had massed troops in Keyala in their ill-fated plan to recapture Kapoeta. The Keyala garrison commander Colonel PSC [Pass Staff College] Muhammad Sayif al-Dawlah has been positively identified as killed along with several other officiers and more than 80 percent of the force. Details of the capture of Keyala will follow as soon as pursuit and exploitation operation is over.

A letter that was written by Bright Star Campaign Command to Col PSC Muhammad Sayif al-Dawlah several days before the fall of Keyala was recovered on his body and will be read over Radio SPLA.

Bright Star Campaign Command here warns all garrisons in Eastern Equatoria either to join the SPLA or evacuate to wherever they choose.

Civilians in particular must evacuate the towns immediately from today and come behind SPLA lines for their own safety.

## Western Sahara

### Polisario Chief on 'Necessity' of Morocco Talks

*LD2409150488 Algiers APS in English 1326 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Text] Hafed Boudjemaa [name as received], 24/9/88 (APS)—SDAR President Mohamed Abdelaziz reaffirmed on Thursday during a press conference "the absolute necessity of direct negotiations with Morocco in order to determine modalities of a cease-fire and conditions in which it is to intervene".

He also recalled that a general, free, regular and credible referendum in Western Sahara, as stipulated by resolutions 104 and 40/50 of the UN, cannot be held without the "withdrawal of Moroccan troops and administration from Western Sahara".

"If the Sahrawi electorate was estimated to 74 000 voters according to the Spanish census of 1974, there is at the present time in Western Sahara about 365,000 Moroccans, ie, 200,000 soldiers and staff and about 165,000 civilians", he observed.

"This is why, he said, it is necessary to create favorable conditions of minimum security and psychological atmosphere for the carrying out of an authentic referendum of selfdetermination". "These conditions can only be assured by the taking in charge of the territory, during the transition period and until the proclamation of the results of the referendum, by the UN and OAU, once the withdrawal of Moroccan troops and administration is reached".

Moreover, he admitted the principle of the neutralization of the important Moroccan colony, proposed by Perez de Cuellar and he spoke in favor of the preservation of interests of the Moroccan population in Western Sahara "which is requested, he said, to play an active role beside the Sahrawi people during the post independence national edification".

Asked on the evolution on the military situation in Western Sahara, Mohamed Abdelaziz spoke on the continuous military action of the Sahrawi People's Liberation Army which, he said, falls in the frame on the continuation of the liberation struggle of the Sahrawi people.

"Despite the peace proposals of the UN secretary general, we have not yet a political agreement with Morocco that could lead to a cease-fire", he added.

"Without this political agreement which could only be reached through direct negotiation, our armed struggle will continue", Abdelaziz added.

Finally, asked if he was optimistic about a return of peace to Western Sahara, the Polisario Front secretary general said "there is unfortunately not yet a sincere political will from the other side of the conflict to reach a fair and definite solution in Western Sahara."

**Polisario Executive Committee Issues Communique**
*LD2609154188 Algiers APS in Arabic 1440 GMT 26 Sep 88*

[Text] Liberated Territories 26 Sep (APS)—The Executive Committee of the Polisario Front, which convened last Saturday under the chairmanship of Mohamed Abdelaziz, the SADR president and secretary general of the Polisario Front, in a communique expressed its hope that the UN's good offices will be successful when all the obstacles the Moroccan Administration and Army are creating are removed and direct consultation between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Polisario Front begin.

In this respect, the Saharan communique urgently calls on all countries and personalities, urging them to spare no effort to convince the Kingdom of Morocco to respond positively to the peace process and engage in direct negotiations with the Saharan party in order to find a just solution to the big problems hindering the peace process.

On the other hand, the Polisario Executive Committee has expressed deep satisfaction with and sincere thanks for the stances of support and consolidation voiced by the Nonaligned Movement foreign ministers at their meeting in Nicosia and noted with satisfaction the firm stances of the Algerian revolution, in particular.

The Saharan communique pointed out that the Polisario Executive Committee had also examined the current big problems facing the Saharan cause on national and international levels and lauded the latest far-reaching operations carried out by the Saharan Army, within the framework of our national struggle, in the Haouza and Oum Driega sectors.

**Polisario Appoints New Foreign Affairs Official**
*LD2609095288 Paris International Service in French 0630 GMT 26 Sep 88*

[Text] In the news this morning is also the mini-reshuffle in the Polisario Front leadership: Mohammed Sidati takes over foreign affairs, replacing Mohammed Salem Ould Salek, who will henceforth deal with information.

## Kuwait

### Foreign Minister Comments on Lebanese Situation

*JN2509100888 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 23 Sep 88 p 1*

[Text] Paris (Agencies)—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, has stated that Kuwait is against partitioning Lebanon and will not recognize two governments in Lebanon.

Asked about Kuwait's position on the Lebanese elections, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said:

"Actually, we do not interfere in Lebanese affairs and denounce any interference in Lebanon's internal affairs. We appeal to the Lebanese brothers to unite, allow nobody to interfere in their affairs, and elect a president before their country suffers from more ordeals."

On the possible establishment of two governments in Lebanon and Kuwait's stand on this, Shaykh Sabah said:

"Do you think that we will recognize two governments? We do not want Lebanon to be partitioned and we are for it's unity and independence."

### Daily Accuses U.S. of 'Opening' Arms Race

*LD2409101388 Kuwait KUNA in English 0808 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Text] Kuwait, Sept 24 (KUNA)—A Kuwaiti daily Saturday called on the Arabs to acquire a satellite similar to that of Israel "to cope with the new arms race that the U.S. helped start in the region."

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM charged the U.S. of opening the new race by supplying Israel with the technological know-how and by diverting world attention from the Israeli activity.

The paper said that the concerted American campaign against Baghdad claiming it used chemical weapons against Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq covered up for the Israeli preparations to launch its first satellite. It noted that after the artificial body was launched, the American campaign remarkably eased.

The paper then questioned the U.S. insistence on sending an international committee to investigate the allegations against Iraq while ignoring the idea of sending a similar team to check Israel's known-to-all violations of the Palestinian people's human rights.

### AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM: Israeli Satellite 'for Spying'

*JN2309144588 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 21 Sep 88 p 1, 21*

[Editorial: "The Arabs Have Their Satellites Too"]

[Text] With the launching of the Israeli satellite into outer space, Israel is, as analysts say, the eighth country of the world with the ability to launch satellites into space using a locally-produced rocket.

Although Israeli sources are trying to suggest that the satellite is for practical purposes, experts affirm that the satellite is especially for spying.

Despite the media uproar, the artificial dust disturbed by Israeli propaganda, and the interpretations and explanations to create panic and fear in the Arab region, launching these types of satellites will not change the facts lurking in the region.

It will also not change the military balance and political equations that dictate the necessity of maintaining Israeli superiority in the confrontation against the Arabs from the Mediterranean to the Gulf.

In other words, the Israeli satellite, which depends technologically and financially on U.S. aid, will not terrorize the Arabs and make them fear, panic, or wring their hands, because this type of technology is no longer monopolized by one country over the other.

Satellites—nay, nuclear and chemical weapons and all other destructive weapons—are available on the market for whoever asks for them or wishes to obtain them.

At one time, the United States and Israel believed that the Arabs would not be able to compete with Israeli superiority in the field of modern bombers and developed long-range missiles, until Iraq broke the monopoly of missile weapons by depending on itself and cooperating with its friends and brothers.

China, which has recently come into the line, is displaying its long-range missile products while searching for its share in the market of weapons and depending on its friendships and relations with the countries in the Middle East and Africa.

Therefore, the issue of weapons is no longer restricted to Israel, Russia, or the United States. The arena is open to all. Whoever pays more gets what he wants, including chemical weapons and satellites used for spying and surveillance purposes.

We will not be letting the cat out of the bag if we say that the Arabs own as many destructive chemical and nuclear weapons—of equal quality—as Israel. The issue is no longer a monopoly for Israel.

However, by unleashing a new arms race that cannot be stopped, the United States has done a disservice both to itself and Israel. Israeli peace will not be achieved by a satellite and peace in the region will not be established by Israeli military superiority.

Therefore, the Americans should have been more realistic and should have advised their partners, the Israelis, to launch themselves into the orbit of peace rather than the orbit of satellites and rockets and rather than investigating outer space in search of death and destruction, when the technology of peace and accord on earth is available.

## Qatar

### Iraqi Foreign Minister Conveys Message to Amir

*JN2409103688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0943 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Excerpt] Doha, 24 Sep (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy, conveyed a message today to Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar.

President Saddam Husayn's message to his brother deals with fraternal relations between Iraq and Qatar, direct negotiations between Iraq and Iran to conclude a peace agreement and implement Security Council Resolution No 598, and the current Arab situation.

An authoritative source told INA that Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, asked Tariq 'Aziz during a meeting here today to convey his fraternal greetings to President Saddam Husayn. [passage omitted]

## United Arab Emirates

### Iraqi Information Minister Arrives With Message

*JN2509101888 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0935 GMT 25 Sep 88*

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 25 Sep (WAKH)—Iraqi Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim arrived in Abu Dhabi this morning on a short visit to the UAE during which he will convey a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

The Iraqi minister was welcomed upon arrival by UAE Information and Culture Minister Ahmad ibn Hamid.

### Shaykh Zayid Receives Envoy

*JN2509103388 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 25 Sep 88*

[Text] Head of State Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has received a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn dealing with negotiations between Iraq and Iran and the latest developments in the region.

The message was delivered by Iraqi Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim when his highness the head of state received him at noon today at Al-Barr Palace.

### Deputy Prime Minister Returns From Cairo Visit

*JN2509101488 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 25 Sep 88*

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 24 Sep (WAKH)—UAE Deputy Prime Minister Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad and his delegation have returned to Abu Dhabi from Cairo after an official visit to Egypt lasting several days.

During the visit, Shaykh Hamdan met with President Husni Mubarak of Egypt and held talks with senior officials headed by Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi. These talks dealt with bilateral relations, and how to develop them in various spheres—especially in the economic and investment fields.

The talks resulted in the signing of two agreements on bilateral cultural, scientific, and investment cooperation and in the formation of a higher joint committee headed by the two countries' prime ministers.

## Yemen Arab Republic

### New Decree Promoting Army Oficers Issued 24 Sep

*JN2409190588 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Text] The commander in chief of the Armed Forces issued Decree Number 14 of 1988 today on the promotion of a number of Armed Forces officers. Following is the text of the decree:

President of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces:

Taking cognizance of the permanent Constitution and the Officers Service Law Number 19 of 1978, and its amendments, and after examining the (?recommendations) of the brother chief of staff, it is resolved that:

Clause 1: 307 persons are promoted from the rank of major to the rank of lieutenant colonel for fulfilling the legal terms.

Clause 2: This resolution goes into effect from the day of its publication. It will be published in the official gazette and military publications.

Issued at the Presidency of the Republic on 13 Safar 1409 Hegira, 24 September 1988.

[Signed] Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress.

## Sudan's Al-Mahdi Arrives, Makes Statement

*JN2409155288 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Text] Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi arrived in Sanaa on a 4-day visit to our country today. Welcoming him at Sanaa Airport were Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani and other senior officials.

In an arrival statement to SABA', the Sudanese prime minister said he is visiting our country to develop the close ties with the YAR in all the Arab, Islamic, and bilateral domains.

Al-Mahdi added his visit is in response to an invitation by the fraternal YAR to join its celebrations and voice the appreciation of our Sudanese people for Yemen's support for Sudan in its plight.

The delegation accompanying Al-Mahdi comprises Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu Salih; Education Minister Mahjub Ja'far; Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Mubarak 'Abdallah al-Fadil; State Minister for Expatriates Dr Mahmud al-Amin; and other Sudanese officials.

### Meets With President Salih

*JN2509143288 Sanaa Domnestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 sep 88*

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, Armed Forces commander in chief, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received in his office at the Presidency at noon today Sudanese Prime Minister Brother al-Sadiq al-Mahdi who is joining our Yemeni people in their celebrations on the 26th anniversary of the immortal 26 September revolution.

During the meeting, they reviewed the situation in the Arab and Islamic arenas and issues of mutual interest. They also discussed the fraternal relations between the two sisterly countries and how to enhance them to realize the common interests of both fraternal peoples and serve our Arab nation's goals and aspirations.

The brother president leader stressed our country's support for fraternal Sudan and the consolidation of Sudanese efforts to realize further stability and construction.

For his part, Brother al-Sadiq al-Mahdi extended his congratulations and those of the fraternal Sudanese people to the brother president leader and the masses of our Yemeni people on the celebrations of their immortal revolution.

He also voiced his and the Sudanese people's thanks and appreciation for the sincere fraternal stands adopted by our people and their leadership toward the ordeal inflicted on the fraternal Sudanese people as a result of the catastrophic floods.

Attending the meeting were Brothers 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and Standing Committee member; Muhamad al-Khadim al-Wajih, telecommunications minister, Standing Committee member, and head of the accompanying mission of honor; and Muhammad Sa'd al-Quabati, our country's ambassador to Sudan.

It was attended on the Sudanese side by Brothers Dr Husayn Sulayman Abu Salih, foreign minister; Prof al-Shaykh Mahjub, higher education and scientific research minister; Dr Mahmud al-Amin, minister of state for expatriates; and Sayyid Ahmad al-Hardalu, Sudanese ambassador in Sanaa.

### Holds Talks With Al-Ghani

*JN2509165888 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1505 GMT 25 Sep 88*

[Excerpts] Sanaa, 25 Sep (SUNA)—Official talks opened here yesterday between Sudan and the YAR, chaired by Prime Ministers al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and 'Abd al-Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani.

Al-Mahdi said Sudan is being targeted by foreign powers because of its influential role in African, Arab, and Islamic arenas. If Sudan succeeds in realizing national unity, it will form a sturdy bridge linking Africa north of the Sahara with Africa south of the Sahara, Al-Mahdi said. The [word indistinct) influence seeks to steer our destinies in one direction and Arab-African-Islamic interests lie elsewhere, said Al-Mahdi, urging Arab and African peoples to be vigilant.

He pointed out Sudan would like to see Africa and the Arabs cooperate to forestall the hostile designs of imperialism and foreign influence.

The prime minister said Sudan and the YAR have moderate policies in common and the potential exists for bilateral cooperation in various spheres. He cited the Palestinian question, Afghanistan, Lebanon, Cyprus, the Western Sahara, the Horn of Africa, and Red Sea security.

He called for all-round strategic cooperation between Sudan and the YAR and the exploration of new areas of bilateral cooperation. He lauded the YAR's efforts to relieve Sudan's recent flood disaster. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the YAR prime minister reviewed his country's accomplishments in all fields since the 26 September revolution. He emphasized the YAR's support for Sudan until it overcomes all its problems.

The YAR will also take a determined stand against whatever imperils Sudan's unity and security. [passage omitted]

**Development Minister Departs for IMF Meeting**
*JN2409161788 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Text] Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, development minister, Standing Committee member, and our country's delegate to the IMF, today left for West Berlin, leading a delegation for the annual meetings of the IMF governors, due to open this Monday.

In a predeparture statement, Dr al-'Attar said our country's participation in these meetings proceeds from a concern on our part to keep abreast of IMF activities that address global economic issues and economic relations between developed and developing nations.

Our participation, added the minister, seeks to secure various types of further foreign backing for our development process as well as enhance our excellent economic ties with friendly countries.

**PDRY Energy Minister Arrives, Discusses Unity**
*JN2409163488 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Text] Brothers Salih Abu Bakr ibn Husaynun, Central Committee member, deputy prime minister, and minister of energy and minerals; and Rashid Muhammad Thabit, Central Committee member, state minister for unity affairs; and other officials in the southern part of our homeland, arrived in Sanaa today.

They will join our country's celebrations to mark the 26th anniversary of the 26 September Revolution. Brother Ibn Husaynun told SABA' that this year's celebrations take place against the background of a good many gains along the road of Yemeni unity.

He cited the Sanaa summit agreement signed by the leaderships of the two parts of the homeland on 5 May 1988. Officials in both parts of Yemen will continue to work toward implementing what was agreed upon at the Sanaa summit.

His visit to Sanaa, added the minister, will give him an opportunity to study firsthand the gains made since the 26 September Revolution led by struggler President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

Ibn Husaynun said he is carrying a letter from 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Central Committee, to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, on Yemeni unity-related matters and other concerns of shared interest.

### Jordan's Prime Minister Arrives 24 Sep

*JN2409101488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0945 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Sep (INA)—Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i arrived in Baghdad at noon today leading a delegation on a visit of several days to Iraq. He was received at the airport by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Hasan 'Ali, RCC member; and a number of ministers.

### Meets with Saddam Husayn

*JN2409105688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1040 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Sep (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i. Al-Rifa'i conveyed to President Saddam Husayn the greetings of his brother His Majesty King Husayn of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

They discussed the strong bilateral relations between the two sisterly countries and the Arab situation in general.

The meeting was attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, and the president's secretary.

### On Relations, Negotiations

*JN2409142688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1240 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Sep (INA)—Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i has said that his current visit to Iraq falls within the framework of continued meetings between the two fraternal states.

In a statement to INA, Al-Rifa'i added that he will hold talks during the visit with Iraqi officials on implementing what was agreed upon during the Higher Joint Committee meetings in order to promote the level of bilateral cooperation and make it rise to the level of the exemplary relations currently existing between the two fraternal states in light of the directives issued by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and His Majesty King Husayn.

Al-Rifa'i pointed out that Iraq's peace stands and the serious and clear endeavors it is exerting at this phase are in harmony with its peace stance and its genuine course on the attainment of peace—the course declared in the early days of the Iranian aggression against Iraq.

He added that the manifestations of this course are its acceptance of all international resolutions and its serious and sincere cooperation with all peace endeavors crowned by its accepting UN Security Council Resolution 598 since its issuance and not 1 year later, as the Iranian side did.

Al-Rifa'i reiterated Jordan's support and backing for Iraq's stands at the Geneva negotiations—the stands that seek to reach a comprehensive and durable peace.

He also asserted that the Arab nation must stand beside Iraq at the current phase of peace, as the adoption of such a stand is a pan-Arab duty that should be performed and a historic responsibility that should be shouldered to serve a noble objective—namely, the attainment of a just and durable peace so that stability and security can prevail in the region.

The Jordanian prime minister voiced his strong confidence that the Arab states realize the motives behind the procrastination and the attempts of the Iranian side to prolong the negotiations.

He affirmed that they will side with Iraq to help establish peace—as they sided with Iraq while it was defending its right, its sovereignty, and the Arabs' rights and sovereignty.

Al-Rifa'i paid tribute to the Iraqi feats of heroism inscribed throughout the 8 years of courageous defense. He also praised the Iraqis for defeating the Iranian regime and foiling its aggressive and expansionist conspiracies. He indicated that Iraq was not only defending its territory. Nay, he said that Iraq was also defending the Arab nation—its existence, its present state, and its future.

### Meets With Ramadan

*JN2409154988 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1415 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Sep (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, this afternoon received Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i.

They reviewed fraternal bilateral relations and discussed implementation of the agreements reached at the meetings of the Higher Joint Committee for Economic, Trade, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation recently held in Amman.

Taha Yasin Ramadan and Zayd al-Rifa'i voiced their eagerness to explore new areas to continue to bolster and expand bilateral cooperation in all spheres in a manner that is in harmony with the directives issued by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and His Majesty King Husayn.

They also affirmed their desire to promote bilateral ties and make them rise to the level of the exemplary and distinguished relations so that the Arab nation can attain its objectives and maintain its strength.

Taha Yasin Ramadan asserted the firmness of the Iraqi stand on the need to bring about a just and comprehensive peace. He also referred to the maneuvering and procrastination created by the Iranian side—a manner that is considered a departure from the essence and spirit

of Resolution No 598 and that confirms the absence of goodwill on the part of Iran toward the attainment of a just, honorable, and comprehensive peace.

Ramadan also reiterated the pride of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and that of the Iraqi leadership and people in the responsible pan-Arab stand taken by Jordan—king, government, and people—in Jordan's support for Iraq during the war years, and also in its backing for Iraq's efforts to establish a genuine and lasting peace.

Zayd al-Rifa'i expressed the admiration and pride harbored by His Majesty King Husayn, and by the Jordanian Government and people because of the distinguished relations maintained with Iraq and because of the serious desire to develop and expand these relations in all spheres.

Al-Rifa'i voiced Jordan's pride in Iraq's peace stands—in harmony with the positions it has adopted throughout the war years—and in its serious efforts to bring about a just and comprehensive peace.

He indicated that Jordan supports Iraq's endeavors at the peace negotiations to establish a lasting and irreversible peace and to realize a cease-fire on land, at sea, and in the air in a manner that is in harmony with Resolution No 598.

Zayd al-Rifa'i added that the historic victories scored and the great sacrifices offered under the leadership of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn are a source of pride for all Arabs, as Iraq defended Arab rights on the Arabs' eastern flank.

The meeting was attended by the Iraqi and Jordanian ambassadors accredited to Jordan and Iraq respectively.

### Departs Baghdad

*JN2409145488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1427 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Sep (INA)—Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i left Baghdad today following a short visit to Iraq.

Al-Rifa'i was seen off at the airport by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Hasan 'Ali, RCC member; and a number of ministers.

## Reportage on Visit by Indian Minister of State

### Meets With Tariq 'Aziz

*JN2309175688 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Sep 88*

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign ministrer, received here this evening Mr K.K. Tiwari, Indian minister of state for foreign affairs, who is currently visiting Iraq.

During the meeting—attended by the Foreign Ministry undersecretary and the Indian ambassador in Baghdad—they discussed bilateral relations, ways to implement Security Council Resolution No 598, and issues of common interest.

### Delivers Letter to President

*JN2409122888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1010 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Sep (INA)—RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim has received an inscribed letter addressed to President Saddam Husayn from Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.This came during a meeting with K.K. Tiwari, Indian minister of state for external affairs and acting culture minister.

During the visit—attended by the Foreign Ministry undersecretary and the Indian ambassador in Baghdad—they reviewed bilateral relations and affirmed Iraq's and India's concern to reinforce these relations in all fields.

### Says Relations 'Good and Firm'

*JN2509191888 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Sep 88*

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 25 Sep (INA)—K.K. Tiwari, Indian minister of state for external affairs, left Baghdad today after a visit to Iraq, during which he attended the opening of Babylon's world festival. [passage omitted]

The Indian minister described relations between Iraq and India as good and firm and said that they go back to the two countries' old civilizations. He also described the U.S. propaganda campaign against Iraq as unjustified.

### Tariq 'Aziz Leaves for Doha With Message

*JN2409085688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0835 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Sep (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy, left Baghdad for Doha today.

In a statement to INA, 'Aziz said he will convey an oral message from President Saddam Husayn to Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani on developments in the Iraq-Iran negotiations with regard to implementation of Security Council Resolution No 598 and the current Arab situation.

### Returns From Qatar

*JN2409152688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1437 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 24 Sep (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy to his brother Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, returned here today following a short visit to Qatar. [passage omitted]

**President Saddam's Envoy Leaves for Abu Dhabi**
*JN2509080488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0645 GMT 25 Sep 88*

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Sep (INA)—Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim, personal envoy of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to UAE President His Highness Shyakh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, left Baghdad for Abu Dhabi this morning.

During the visit, Latif Nusayyif Jasim will convey a message from His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to his brother Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan on bilateral relations and regional developments.

**President Chairs General Command Meeting 25 Sep**
*JN2509105188 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1020 GMT 25 Sep 88*

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Sep (INA)—Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has chaired a meeting of the Armed Forces General Command.

The meeting was attended by Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister, Husayn Kamil, industry and military industrialization minister, and the president's secretary.

**'New Evidence' Emerges on Biological Weapons**
*LD2509154288 London THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH in English 25 Sep 88 p1*

["New Evidence of Iraqi War"—by Con Coughlin]

[Text] New evidence has emerged that Iraq is using biological weapons in its attempts to crush rebel Kurdish areas in the north of the country.

Relief workers believe an uncontrollable outbreak of typhoid fever in the Kurdish city of Al-Sulaymaniyah has been caused by a special bacteria cultured by Iraqi scientists in laboratory conditions.

Scores of Kurds have died from typhoid in north Kurdistan since Iraq launched its offensive against Kurdish guerrilla groups and relief workers fear the virus could soon reach epidemic proportions.

Iraq has repeatedly denied using chemicals weapons against the Kurds despite the fact that hundreds of Kurdish refugees who have fled to Turkey have been treated for injuries consistent with being attacked by chemical gas.

Now Kurdish doctors, mounting a relief operation in Al-Sulaymaniyah, are convinced Iraq has introduced biological weapons into its arsenal of banned weapons.

Major outbreaks of typhoid from contaminated water usually involve several different strains of bacteria, and usually include other organims, such as cholera. But according to Dr Dilawir 'Ala al-Din of the Kurdish British Medical and Scientific Support Group, quoted in this week's edition of NEW SCIENTIST, all the bacteria so far isolated in Al-Sulaymaniyah are from a single typhoid strain.

If Iraq is using biological weapons it will be the latest in a long line of banned weapons it has used to curb the Kurdish rebellion.

Kurdish villages in the Al-Sulaymaniyah and Irbil regions have been bombarded with mustard gas since April 1987 and the Iraqis also put thalium into food.

**Ships Arrive in, Depart From Basrah Ports**
*JN2409184488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1758 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Text] Basra, 24 Sep (INA)—The Iraqi oil tanker "Baba Karkar" arrived in the port of Khawr al-Zubayr in the valiant Governorate of Basrah at 1315 [0915 GMT] today. The Iraqi ship "Al-Wasiti" left the port of Umm Qasr at 0700 today loaded with fertilizer and heading for Sri Lanka.

Since the cease-fire went into effect on 20 August, the two merchant ships "Khawlah" and "Al-Wasiti" and the two oil tankers " 'Ayn Zalah" and "Baba Karkar " have returned home, while the two Iraqi merchant ships "Al-Idrisi" and "Khawlah," the oil tanker "Ayn Zalah," and the Arab merchant ship "Ibn al-Haytham" as well as other five ships which are owned by foreign countries have left Iraqi ports.

**4,844 Kurds Benefit From General Amnesty**
*JN2309161488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1545 GMT 23 Sep 88*

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Sep (INA)—The number of those who benefited from the general amnesty issued by the RCC has reached 44,844 citizens since the decision was issued on 6 September. Of that number, there are 11,111 women, 22,490 children, 10,172 men, and 1,071 old men.

**Washington, Damascus 'Interfering' in Lebanon**
*JN2409111288 Baghdad INA in English 1000 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Text] Baghdad, Sept. 24 INA—AL-THAWRAH paper of Iraq today lashed at the Syrian regime for interfering in the internal affairs of Lebanon, a member of the Arab League and the United Nations, saying that Syria, backed by the United States of America, "acts in Lebanon like an occupying invader."

"The Syrian behaviour in Lebanon wins the relief on Tel Aviv and understanding of the American Administration which has agreed with the rulers of Damascus upon the Lebanese presidential candidate," AL-THAWRAH mentioned.

By occupying Lebanon and reaching an agreement with the Americans and the Zionists, Hafiz al-Asad who sank into the swamp of betrayal of pan-Arab causes, revealed falsity and invalidity of Syrian claims and allegations concerning "struggle against Zionism and Americanism," the paper noted.

Having Damascus, Tel Aviv, Washington and Tehran interfering in Lebanon's internal affairs, the Arabs were left with no choice but to step in to preserve independence of Lebanon and security of the Arab countries, where the Lebanese case could recur had it been allowed to succeed and pass in Lebanon, AL-THAWRAH remarked.

### Egypt Voices 'Displeasure' Over Leak on Iraq

*TA2309113088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 23 Sep 88*

[Text] The new Israeli ambassador to Egypt, Prof Shim'on Shamir, was summoned yesterday to the Foreign Ministry in Cairo, which voiced acute displeasure at the publication in Israel of statements made by President Mubarak at the ceremony when Shamir presented his credentials.

The Egyptians said they took a very grave view of the leaking of a conversation with the president and that the fact that the name of Iraq's President Saddam Husayn was mentioned in the context of the conversation.

Shamir said he had not leaked the conversation, and the Foreign Ministry spokesman in Jerusalem said the leak did not come from any authoritative source.

The Voice of Israel's political reporter says Mubarak said the Arab world is committed to peace and urged Israel to establish contacts with the Palestinians. He assured the ambassador that Israel would be surprised by their moderation.

### Planes Raid 'Terrorist Target' East of Sidon

*TA2309151788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 23 Sep 88*

[Excerpt] This afternoon Air Force planes attacked a terrorist target east of Sidon. Our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that all our planes returned safely to their base. According to reports the destroyed target had served as a headquarters for the terrorist organizations. [passage omitted]

### 3 'Terrorists' Killed in Clash With Navy

*TA2409081788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Text] Three terrorists were killed early this morning by our forces off the coast of Tyre. Our forces did not sustain any casualties. The IDF spokesman reports that an Israeli Navy boat on a patrol in the Tyre area detected a rubber boat carrying three armed terrorists. The patrol killed the terrorists.

### Passports Returned to Detained U.S. Citizens

*TA2409201188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Text] Five Arab women holding U.S. citizenship who stayed in Judaea and Samaria will apparently be deported to Jordan tomorrow morning.

Our police affairs correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov reports that the five women were interrogated by the Ramallah police early last week; they were suspected of having participated in an illegal demonstration. Their passports have been confiscated.

Our correspondent has learned that a senior security element got involved in the matter and consequently the passports were returned to the women.

### 'Bilateral Diplomatic Contacts' With PRC Planned

*LD2409224788 Hamburg DPA in German 1950 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Excerpt] Jerusalem (DPA)—In the next few days, Israel and the PRC want to establish bilateral diplomatic contacts for the first time in the two countries' history. This was reported by well-informed sources in Jerusalem this evening.

An agreement to this effect between representatives of the two states was achieved in strict secrecy. It was reported that the decision by the governments in Jerusalem and Beijing is due to be announced by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and his Chinese coutterpart at their planned meeting on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York in the middle of next week. [passage omitted]

## More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

### Residents Clash in Hebron

*TA2309122588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 23 Sep 88*

[Text] A fistfight broke out between Jews and Arabs in Hebron at noon, and the IDF had to intervene to restore order. Our correspondent Arye Gus says that according to initial reports, Arab youngsters threw stones at Jewish youths near the Jewish Quarter.

A fistfight broke out and Arab passersby and worshippers joined the youngsters in stone throwing. An inhabitant of the Jewish Quarter was slightly injured in the head and received medical treatment at a military clinic.

IDF soldiers and Jewish residents fired into the air in the course of the fistfight. Ultimately, a curfew was clamped on the area.

### Arab Youth Wounded Near Tulkarm

*TA2309163688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 23 Sep 88*

[Text] This afternoon an Arab youth was wounded by IDF gunfire in the village of Jayyus, near Tulkarm. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that soldiers entered the village in the framework of the IDF's operations. Local youths started stoning the soldiers and the latter were forced to open fire.

Earlier today two Molotov cocktails were thrown at a border police patrol in Gaza, but there were no injuries. Our correspondent notes that the Friday prayers in the Gaza Strip mosques passed quietly.

### 'Arab Sources' Say 14 Wounded

*TA2309185888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 23 Sep 88*

[Text] An Israeli passenger was slightly wounded by stones on the road bypassing Gaza. This is reported by our correspondent Arye Gus. Two inhabitants of the Al-Shati' refugee camp were slightly wounded by shots fired by IDF soldiers.

Arab sources claim that eight people were wounded. The incident occurred when a crowd of people stoned a group of soldiers. In the Al-Rumayl neighborhood, several youths suspected of having thrown Molotov cocktails were detained.

According to Arab sources six people were wounded in various incidents in Judaea and Samaria.

### 2 Tulkarm Residents Wounded

*TA2409124288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Text] Two local residents were wounded by IDF gunfire in Tulkarm this morning while soldiers were dispersing a demonstration.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that youths threw stones at the customs office and at an Israeli bank branch. The Army used tear gas and plastic bullets. Military sources reported on one wounded person only.

### 2 Rafah Residents Wounded by IDF

*TA2409151688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Text] During incidents in Rafah today, two Arab residents were slightly wounded by plastic bullets. They were taken to the Khan Yunus Hospital for treatment.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that since the morning there have been stonethrowing incidents and riots. This morning two youths were wounded by IDF soldiers' fire in Tulkarm.

### Arab Girl Wounded by IDF Dies

*TA2409171788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Text] A girl from the Al-Am'ari refugee camp near Ramallah died today in an East Jerusalem Hospital. The girl was wounded by IDF soldiers approximately 1 week ago.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the girl was wounded by plastic bullets and was unconscious since the incident.

### Secret Printing House Uncovered

*TA2409195688 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Excerpt] Over the weekend the security forces managed to uncover the secret printing house of the Palestinian Communist Party in the territories. The printing house was hidden in a residential apartment in the vicinity of Jerusalem.

This printing house was used for, among other things, printing the party's underground organ, of which many hundreds of copies had been distributed by means of a secret network. The communists in the territories have been actively involved in the uprising since its inception. [passage omitted]

### 14 Persons Wounded

*TA2409202588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Text] In riots in the territories today 14 people were wounded. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that at noon two rioters were wounded in the village of Dayr Dibwan, one of them seriously. This evening a 12-year old boy and a youth were wounded in Nabulus during demonstrations. This morning two youths were wounded in Tulkarm.

The mukhtar of the Rafah refugee camp, 'Abd al-Hayy Lubdi, was stabbed in Rafah by masked persons while in his shop. A riot broke out and four residents were wounded when the security forces dispersed it. Four inhabitants were also wounded in the Al-Shati' refugee camp in Gaza.

### Palestinian-American Killed

*TA2509070488 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Sep 88 pp 1, 14*

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] A Palestinian-American was shot and killed early Friday at Al-Mazra'ah al-Sharqiyah, north of Ramallah, but the motive for the killing was unclear.

Palestinians said 'Imad Shalabi, 43, was not considered a "collaborator", and police said he had no contacts with the security forces. Shalabi's relatives said he was shot in the head when he opened his door at night after hearing noises outside his home. [passage omitted]

### Firebomb Thrown

*TA2509071288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 25 Sep 88*

[Text] A firebomb was thrown last night at the home of an Arab policeman in Hebron. There were neither casualties nor damage.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the wave of threats and pressures against Arab policemen to resign is continuing. At present only 20 percent of the policemen who were in the force a year ago are still serving.

### 5 Charged in Arab's Death

*TA2509082388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 25 Sep 88*

[Text] Four Giv'ati Brigade soldiers have been charged with manslaughter in the beating of a Jabalyah inhabitant in the Gaza Strip. According to the charges, they beat him with the butts of their weapons. The reserves doctor who treated the beaten man has been charged with causing the death through negligence.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the five will be brought to the military court in the south to have their detentions extended until the completion of proceedings against them.

### Daytime Curfew Lifted

*TA2509120088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 25 Sep 88*

[Text] The curfew on Qalqilyah was lifted this morning. The town was under full curfew for 6 days and the curfew will still be in effect at night.

### Vehicles Stoned in Jerusalem

*TA2509144688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 Gmt 25 Sep 88*

[Text] This afternoon a woman was slightly wounded when stones were thrown at a bus on which she was traveling in Wadi al-Jawz in Jerusalem. Some of the windshields were shattered.

Earlier today stones were thrown at a border police car near Damascus Gate in the Old City. Our correspondent Yosi Qoren reports that the policemen used tear gas to restore calm. There were no casualties.

### 2 Wounded by IDF Fire

*TA2509171588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 25 Sep*

[Text] Two residents of the village of Bal'a near Tulkarm were wounded by IDF soldiers' gunfire today. The incident occurred when an IDF unit was conducting searches and arrests in the village.

### 6 Arabs Arrested

*TA2509193088 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 25 Sep 88*

[Excerpt] The Galilee District police this evening arrested six Arabs, including public figures and school principals in the Arab sector.

Our correspondent Moti Eden says they are suspected of having incited a revolt against the state through the collection of signatures in the village of Tamra on a petition in support of the uprising in the territories. [passage omitted]

Ten Arab inhabitants, most of them youngsters, were wounded by IDF gunfire in incidents in Samaria and the Gaza Strip. Most of them sustained moderate wounds. Curfews remains in force in various villages and refugee camps.

### General Strike in Territories

*TA2609093288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 26 Sep 88*

[Text] There is a general strike and disturbances have taken place in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip in solidarity with prisoners in the Qezi'ot jail.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that two people were shot and slightly wounded in Rafah by plastic bullets fired by IDF soldiers. There have been clashes with security forces in many locations. Casualties have been reported in the village of Si'ir in the Hebron area and in the Nabulus region.

In the Shu'fat refugee camp north of Jerusalem, a gathering by youths near the local mosque turned into a violent riot during which stones were hurled and roadblocks erected. A police force that arrived at the scene dispersed the riots; it is now quiet there.

Our correspondent Yosi Koren reports that a firebomb that did not explode was thrown this morning at the home of a policeman in the Shu'fat area. He also reports disturbances in several villages in the Jerusalem area last night and this morning.

## AL-DUSTUR Interviews Al-Masri on Politics

*JN2409105088 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 24 Sep 88 pp 16, 17*

[Interview with Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri by a number of AL-DUSTUR writers in the weekly "Meet the Press" feature in Amman; date not given]

[Text] AL-DUSTUR: The legal and administrative disengagement between the two banks is still the hot issue in the region.

What are the repercussions on the Arab and international levels and the effect of this on efforts to achieve peace in the region?

Al-Masri: There is no doubt that the decision is a major turning point in the regional political life. Various discussions and questions were made in many areas and on different internal, regional, and international levels. This shows the importance of the event.

The results have shown that it was the correct political decision that placed the Palestinians and their sole, legitimate representative in front of their big responsibilities.

Because the decision was a surprise, it created a jolt and raised many questions. I would like to say that the objective in the first place is to give momentum to the peace process and to make the PLO shoulder its duty. The measures taken in Jordan and the West Bank in light of this decision should be in harmony with the intention and purpose of the political decision.

There are certain political measures that might not be completely in harmony with the administrative measures taken in light of the political measures and that are related to the Palestinians who live in the West Bank or come here frequently.

The importance of the decision will emerge in the coming months, particulalry since it came in light of the international detente and the two superpowers' trend to resolve different regional problems, including the Middle East and the Palestinian issue.

On the other hand, the decision came before the U.S. and Israeli elections. The Jordanian decision might not have great effect on the American elections, but it certainly will affect the Israeli voters and the Israeli elections positively.

In other words, the decision will place the Israeli voter in front of a real and clear option. The Israeli voters should deal with the situation—that is, "the Palestinian factor."

The Israeli voters cannot evade their responsibilities or options by hiding behind the Jordanian option or anything else. This is taking place now in Israeli society.

If the PLO can confront this challenge and come up with political decisions in harmony with its responsibilities and reality, everybody will admit that the Jordanian step has laid down the beginning of a solution to the Palestinian issue.

AL-DUSTUR: Is the Jordanian decision tactical, not strategic, as some claim?

Al-Masri: The step is not tactical. Arab and international support for this step shows that it came at the appropriate time. Consequently, there is no need to go back on this step. However, some parties do not want to be convinced that the step is strategic, particularly the Israeli Labor Party, which calls for the Jordanian option.

This party believes that through U.S. efforts and its moderate stand on the international conference, it can convince Jordan of the Jordanian option.

However, when the Jordanian decision was made and ended this view in many minds, Peres and the Labor Party searched for an excuse or justification, saying that the Jordanian decision is tactical, not strategic. Despite all that has been said, the decision is strategic. AL-DUSTUR: After the disengagement of ties between Jordan and the West Bank, do you think we are approaching the convening of an international peace conference?

Al-Masri: The peace march in the region must be viewed from a comprehensive perspective that relates to developments outside the Middle East region. As I said earlier, the atmosphere of international detente led over a short period of time to beginnings of solutions to regional conflicts in Namibia, Angola, Cyprus, Afghanistan, Cambodia, and the Iraq-Iran war.

What remains is the Middle East problem. Those who know the atmosphere in which the superpower summits—the latest of which was the Moscow summit—were held, are convinced that the superpowers will reach an understanding due to the presence of a real, not fictitious, atmosphere of detente.

This atmosphere will definitely prevail in our region, admitting, however, that the situation here is different from the other problems. Also, relations between the United States and Israel differ from relations between any other two countries.

This is in addition to the importance of the Arab region strategically, morally, materially, and the complications of the Palestinian question.

I think that if the concerned parties in the region respond to the positive atmosphere between the two superpowers, we will reach the beginning of a solution and the convening of an international conference. Hence comes the importance of the Jordanian decision.

Israel is now required to deal with the Palestinian presence, and the PLO is required to adopt stands that differ from its previous ones. As observers of what is happening on the Palestinian and Israeli sides, we can say that the international conference will convene when these two parties are ready for a "comparision" [mufadalih] or a compromise solution.

As far as I know, the two superpowers are individually pushing both parties to reach this "comparision" point or a compromise. Then, convocation of the international conference will be possible. Efforts exerted by His Majesty King Husayn over the past 4 years centered on reaching almost complete acceptance of the international conference.

There were no appropriate practical circumstances for its convocation, but efforts to create such circumstances have now begun to integrate. We are approaching the equation to which all the many parties concerned with the Middle East conflict agree.

AL-DUSTUR: If the international conference is convened, what will the Jordanian role be after the disengagement of ties?

Al-Masri: These things are declared and clear. The Palestinians want an independent delegation. If international circumstances permit, this will happen.

We in Jordan accept whatever is acceptable to all. If the concerned parties reach the point of "comparision," the representation of any party in the international conference becomes insignificant.

If the PLO announces before the convening of the conference its acceptance of partition and negotiations with Israel, and the United States accepts this and opens a dialogue with the PLO, the obstacle to the formation of an independent Palestianian delegation will be removed.

I would like to stress an important point. "Palestinian representation is not an issue for us in Jordan." We respect and accept the PLO desire of having an independent delegation.

In addition to this, Jordan's role remains basic in any peaceful solution, not only because it is a main frontline state, but because of historical links and clear association with the Palestinian question.

Jordan will remain a basic element in the peaceful settlement, whether before or during the convening of the international conference. This role and weight is recognized by the Palestinians, the Arabs, and the world.

AL-DUSTUR: How do you evaluate the current Jordanian-Palestinian relations in light of the condradictory Palestinian statements?

Al-Masri: The comments that I have heard and that are attributed to the PLO officials are a kind of expressing blame. You must have noticed that in his Strasbourg speech, Mr Yasir 'Arafat praised the Jordanian decision. Our relations are historical and the dialogue is continuing.

However, intensive political contacts between Jordan and the PLO are not as active as they were before the disengangement because the PLO is preoccupied with sifting the options available to it in the coming decicive phase. Channels are open and issues are taking their normal course, and I believe more contacts will be effected after the PLO has made a decision.

I also believe that during and following the Israeli elections and after the end of the U.S. presidential election campaign, the region will witness political actions and large-scale moves. Contacts between Jordan and the PLO should be intensified, given that we are dealing with the PLO officials with no hard feelings involved.

I would like to note in this regard that the nonaligned conference held in Cyprus recently was a very comfortable occasion, because since I took over as foreign minister, I have never attended a conference without facing differences with the Palestinian delegation.

AL-DUSTUR: How do you evaluate the meetings of the [Jordanian-Palestinian] joint committee to support the steadfastness [of people under occupation]? Is there any new way to urge the Arab states to pay their $450 million of obligations?

Al-Masri: Despite its difficult financial position, the committee has become the main channel of Jordanian-Palestinian dealings. We have agreed to mount a new endeavor to urge Arab states to fulfill their obligations, given the conducive atmosphere represented by Arab and international meetings, especially in New York, where the Arab foreign ministers will be attending the General Assembly session.

AL-DUSTUR: You said that the coming months will witness certain events. What do you mean by that? Do you believe that the interactions within the Palestinian and Israeli societies are positively proceeding toward the international conference?

Al-Masri: I did not say that I expect events to take place, but I expect a continuation of activity as a result of the Jordanian decision. This activity will promote the peace march and highlight new points in the peace formula, especially the Palestinian factor.

Therefore, the continuation of events requires an action and a reaction. The uprising is a basic factor. Politics in our region is just like liquid in connected vessels. Any event in any state will affect other states. However, events in general are proceeding in a positive direction.

The Israeli voter is seriously considering the future of the occupied territory and is examining his attitude toward the Palestinian issue. He is also discussing the future of Israel itself. Palestinians are also discussing whether to recognize Israel and what they should do about Resolution No 242 or the partition resolution.

The PLO wants to destroy the American and Israeli walls and become a recognized partner in the political game. This requires PLO decisions. If the PLO wants to proclaim an independent Palestinian state, what will this political proclamation require and to whom should it be addressed?

AL-DUSTUR: You said that the proclamation of an independent Palestinian state requires a political declaration. In your opinion, what will be the provisions of this declaration?

Al-Masri: The international requirements are well known. Some parties in the region are poles apart. Israel's demand to annex the West Bank will not be realized, and the Palestinians will not get all they want. The Palestinian and Israeli sides must reach a compromise.

'Arafat announced his acceptance of two states according to the partition resolution. This will not be an official acceptance unless it is adopted by the PNC. Palestinian statements indicate that the PLO will accept the Israeli state provided the principle of reciprocity is observed.

The Israeli officials have so far not reached this conviction. The PLO now asks itself: Will they recognize us if we recognize them? I believe that a delay in answering this question will delay the PNC session.

While in Cyprus, I heard from Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, that consultations within the PLO and with world powers are continuing to reach final and right decisions on current issues.

AL-DUSTUR: The uprising is now 10 months old. What will its future be?

Al-Masri: The results of the uprising must be translated into political action. The uprising has changed many concepts in the Arab region and the world, and the Palestinians have proved that they will not concede or abandon their national Palestinian identity.

I firmly believe the Jordanian decision—declared at the peak of the uprising—was intended to convey the notion that the Palestinians have acquired self-confidence and have reached the point of no return in terms of their adherence to their national identity. This is a support for the uprising.

The uprising has created a new reality, and the Arabs, Israel, and the world must deal with this reality. The uprising will continue, but it might take other forms. It is enough that it will keep the Israeli Army on a state of alert and this will be a heavy burden for the Israeli treasury, making the occupied territory a heavy burden for the Israeli authorities.

The sharp controversy between the Israeli finance and defense ministers on reducing the defense budget is proof of this. The uprising is on the right path and is continuing to affirm the Palestinian decision and identity.

AL-DUSTUR: How do you assess the investment of the uprising in Arab diplomacy?

Al-Masri: I frankly say that Arab reactions and responses were not on the level of the event or up to the required national and pan-Arab level despite the declared popular and official support for the uprising. This is because of the preoccupation of the Arab states with many other problems.

The Arab moves to support the uprising politically and materially were not enough. The inhabitants of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank bore the brunt and shouldered the entire burden. They are to a great extent still alone.

AL-DUSTUR: What do you think of Peres' statement on the withdrawal of the Israeli Army from the Gaza Strip and large parts of the West Bank? Do you believe he is serious, or is this election propaganda?

Al-Masri: This talk is not new. Peres said this and repeated it more than once. However, his statement is still vague. His condition is that the PLO must make a clear announcement on the recognition of Israel and the acceptance of Resolution No 242. He who asks for clarity should be clear before asking others to be clear.

You know that the Israeli system is diversified. Each day we hear many different and contradictory statements that could throw us off balance. However, what is clear in Peres' statements is his acceptance of the principle of withdrawal.

AL-DUSTUR: What is Jordan's stand on the proclamation of an independent Palestinian state or government-in-exile? Is it possible to host PNC sessions [in Jordan]?

Al-Masri: The issue of hosting PNC meetings was not requested or discussed. And I am not the one who decides this.

Regarding the government-in-exile, His Majesty King Husayn expressed readiness to recognize anything the PLO decides. We will accept anything the PLO decides. This has been our stand until now. But all these remained merely questions in the absence of a final Palestinian decision.

AL-DUSTUR: What are your views on parliamentary life in Jordan in the wake of the disengagement of ties between the two banks?

Al-Masri: I believe that genuine parliamentary life is necessary in any country, and its absence has a great effect. Personally, I believe as long as there is a decision to hold parliamentary elections, it will be better. I believe in the government of institutions and objective control on officials. However, I do not have a specific answer on the elections and their date.

AL-DUSTUR: What is your assessment of the Jordanian move under His Majesty King Husayn to achieve Arab solidarity and remove sensitivities among some Arab countries?

Al-Masri: This role and endeavor are continuous. Sometimes they are covered by the media; other times they are not in accordance with the nature of the contacts. His Majesty King Husayn said that since there is an Arab gathering called the GCC and since the Arab Maghreb is trying to have another gathering, why are we in the Arab east the only ones excluded from these efforts? There should be another gathering no matter what it might be called.

King Husayn proposed the formation of an Arab Legion that is ostensibly military in nature. However, it carries unionist meanings. Therefore, the Arabs in this area are duty-bound to think of a gathering one way or another.

We in Jordan have a very successful experience in bilateral relations which linked Jordan with other countries logically and gradually, particularly the higher committees with Egypt, Iraq, and Syria.

If the activities and programs of these joint committees intensify and expand, the bilateral relations could be unionist. I believe that common Arab action must be developed to reach this level.

AL-DUSTUR: Do you mean to say that there are contacts underway toward a regional economic unity?

Al-Masri: I don't want to give an overblown picture. The point I want to make is that there is a pressing need for some kind of getting together. A start could be made on a step-by-step, bilateral footing. Indeed that much has already been achieved. Joint, successful ventures could emerge as is the case now.

In this respect, Jordan and Egypt can maybe standardize their customs procedures. Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt may also join forces in a firm. What has been achieved thus far are steps along the road to unity and Jordan is typically unionist.

Furthermore, all parties have had to move forward under the pressure of circumstances. Also His Majesty King Husayn's Arab visits are ongoing and seek to close Arab ranks.

AL-DUSTUR: The diplomatic battle Iraq is waging in Geneva is no less ferocious than the military one. How can Iraq's position be bolstered? And where do you see the current talks leading?

Al-Masri: I am not pessimistic on that score. I think the Iranians now accept the need for a peaceful solution. Iraq had long shown itself to be disposed toward peace, even before the UN Security Council passed Resolution No 598. And President Saddam Husayn's true peace overtures attest to this orientation. So, Iraq's peaceful intentions have long been evident.

After 8 years of war and considerable human and material losses, the sides are now talking directly across the negotiating table. Iraq is right to insist that the talks produce a true, lasting peace agreement. It knows the Iranian regime has not changed, and therefore wants to be convinced of Iran's true peaceful intentions.

Iraq has only one outlet to the Arabian Gulf—the Shatt al-'Arab, which is no more than 2 km across at its widest point. Iran, on the other hand, has ports and long coastlines along the Arabian Gulf. Understandably, Iraq wants to see the problem of navigation sorted out, and its security, trade, and only outlet to the outside world and international waters safeguarded.

This explains why Iraq is seeking true peace, and negotiations would have progressed at a greater pace if Iranian intentions could have been been trusted. And then you have international interests.

Iraq does not want the political and commercial interests of the world powers to unduly influence its relations with Iran. I reckon the talks will make headway since all parties will gain from an end to the war and averting another one.

AL-DUSTUR: What are the reasons behind the U.S. accusing Iraq of using chemical weapons against Kurds in the north?

Al-Masri: The U.S. Congress' response, initiated by the Foreign Affairs Committee, was very exaggerated. There were Jewish parties behind the decision and these were moved by Israel, which wants to continuously weaken Iraq. These sides found out that the issue of using chemical weapons is currently a very sensitive point for world public opinion.

Therefore, the U.S. Congress' measure came without investigations. It is a very extreme measure and I think that the campaign against Iraq will continue despite testimonies from the concerned sides such as the International Red Cross, and the refugees' high commissioner.

The objective behind it was to weaken Iraq's position in the negotiations and to show the flexible Iranian stand. This encourages it to continue in its stand and impose economic sanctions against it.

AL-DUSTUR: What effect will a victory by one of the two U.S. [Presidential] candidates have on the Arab-Israeli conflict?

Al-Masri: Arabs have been waiting for 40 years for the election of a U.S. president or party that will bear fruit for the benefit of the Arab cause. I think that Arab public opinion has reached a conviction that, in the U.S. presidential elections, who wins is of no importance.

This is due to the organic connection between the United States and Israel. This connection has become clear to everyone. The influence of the Jewish pressure groups in the United States has also become clear.

There are two main points which will influence any U.S. president either positively or negatively. The first of these is the firmness and unity of the Arab stand because we will always be the basic factor.

If we really united, and not by slogans, and if the United States, and others, feel that the Arab's stand is a united one, then they will have to reconsider their position and act according to that basis.

The second point is the atmosphere of international detente, which is talking place now. In my opinion, the treatment of the Middle East issue by any upcoming U.S. Administration will not be changed by the change of president.

It will almost be similar. The two candidates are competing for who will serve Israel more in order to gain the Jewish votes. I believe that there is nothing more that the United States can give to Israel.

AL-DUSTUR: Anything new on the ordinary Riyadh [Arab] summit

Al-Masri: I cannot say when the postponed summit will convene. In any case, I would rather not discuss it now.

AL-DUSTUR: What do you think of the U.S. secretary of state's recent statements? Do you see anything new there?

Al-Masri: Nothing that we haven't heard before: The Palestinian political rights; his opposition to annexation of the West Bank by Israel; and that Jordan is not Palestine. On the question of recognizing the Palestinians or doing business with their sole, legitimate representative, he hasn't broken any new ground either.

Having been made by the American secretary of state himself after a spell of political inactivity, the statements were greeted with hullaballoo by the media. His initiative is still on the table, though.

AL-DUSTUR: The UN General Assembly session is at hand. Will there be Arab meetings on the sidelines?

Al-Masri: Arab and Islamic foreign ministers will hold several meetings there. Arab foreign ministers' efforts will focus on supporting Iraq at the United Nations.

AL-DUSTUR: The Soviets seem to lean toward Jordan's position on regional solutions being mooted. Is this really the case?

Al-Masri: The Soviet position was a point of disagreement between Jordan and the PLO. The Soviet stand, which has a lot in common with Jordan's, has been proven right. Now there's more of an understanding between the USSR and the U.S. Administration on the international conference and the silhouette of a political solution. Yasir 'Arafat was in Moscow last February and reached this conclusion.

The Soviet Union is moving dynamically, albeit backstage, to break the logjam of the peace process in light of Jordan's severance of legal and administrative links with the occupied West Bank. It was no coincidence that Polyakov, the Middle East expert at the Soviet Foreign Ministry, was in Tunis for 3 days as the PLO was discussing key issues.

The Soviet factor and moderation are now crucial to unfreezing the Palestinian question. I think the Soviets favor a Palestinian state and are awaiting with interest an announcement on that.

### Al-Masri Departs for New York UN Talks 24 Sep

*JN2409120288 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri has left Amman for New York to lead Jordan's delegation to the 43d session of the UN General Assembly. [passage omitted]

### Al-Khasawinah Comments on Lebanese Situation

*JN2409140488 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Randa Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Excerpt] Jordanian Information Minister Dr Hani al-Khasawinah today stressed to our radio that what happened in Lebanon is a continuation of the dilemma experienced by the Lebanese, and that all the sons of the Lebanese people pay a dear price for this dilemma.

In the first official Jordanian comment on the recent situation in Lebanon and the presence of two governments, Al-Khasawinah added that Jordan would not interfere at all in the internal affairs of any Arab country.

Al-Khasawinah believes this delicate stage in Lebanon necessitates that the concerned Arab parties should adopt a quiet diplomacy aimed at avoiding the deepening of the rift and the bleeding wounds in the Lebanese body, and concentrate on the positive elements.

The Jordanian minister added that he hopes that all the Lebanese will be able to overcome their country's crisis and reach a suitable formula to safeguard Lebanon's unity and independence—a formula which is the objective of all Lebanese parties. [passage omitted]

**Phalangist Party Supports New Government**
*NC2309150288 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 23 Sep 88*

[Text] The Phalangist Party Political Bureau has expressed its support for the new government. This government, the bureau said, was formed in accordance with the constitutional articles and rules which legally continue the legitimacy of the state and its institutions.

It called on all the ministers to carry out their constitutional duties and noted that the new government is characterized by the comprehensive nature of national representation.

The bureau said that foremost among the new government's task is the preparation for the election of a president in a sound atmosphere of freedom and democracy, through the expression of the Lebanese will as represented by the Chamber of Deputies alone. It also called on Lebanese leaders to come together for an act of salvation, as the grave circumstances the country is experiencing demand.

**Iddih Remains Candidate for Presidency**
*NC2309151088 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 23 Sep 88*

[Text] Raymond Iddih has said that the government of General Michel 'Awn is legitimate. He also announced that he is still a candidate for the presidency.

He stated that the Salim al-Huss government has in fact resigned, and Al-Huss has been chairing it as acting prime minister. Al-Huss was appointed acting prime minister after the assassination of Prime Minister Rashid Karami. The decree of his appointment issued in June 1986 [as heard] stipulated that his government would end its term of office as soon as a new government is formed.

**Shams al-Din: 'No Government at all' Exists**
*NC2309173988 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Sep 88*

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Shi'ite Islamic Council, has declared that the Islamic spiritual summit held in his residence today reiterated the content of the statement issued yesterday. He said that in their view the government formed by the regime at midnight last night is no government at all.

Shams al-Din drew the attention of friendly and fraternal countries to the fact that this stand represents the view of the Lebanese. He called on the Lebanese people to realize the seriousness of the step taken by the regime, which can be described as a coup.

Shaykh Shams al-Din noted it was stressed during today's meeting that the attention of all parties should be drawn to this serious and critical stage. He emphasized that Bkirki [seat of the Maronite Patriarchate] should work in order to find a way out for the other government, since Bkirki is responsible for it and for the deputies' meeting which was held there.

**Al-Jumayyil Telephones Syria's Al-Asad 23 Sep**
*NC2309194188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 23 Sep 88*

[Text] [Former] President Amin al-Jumayyil tonight telephoned Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and explained to him the reasons for forming the new government under General Michel 'Awn. Al-Jumayyil stressed the need to speed up all efforts to end the crisis because it only serves Lebanon's enemies.

Al-Jumayyil and Al-Asad agreed to continue their contacts in order to tackle the situation.

Al-Jumayyil also made a number of contacts today from his house in Sinn al-Fil, in which he briefed Arab and international circles on the circumstances surrounding the formation of the military government to avoid any negative development.

**17 U.S. Diplomats, Employees Leave Beirut 23 Sep**
*NC2409075588 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0750 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Text] Seventeen U.S. diplomats and employees left the embassy premises in 'Awkar yesterday on board three helicopters bound for Cyprus en route to the United States.

**Forces Stop U.S. Charge Entry Into E. Beirut**
*NC2309155188 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1540 GMT 23 Sep 88*

[Excerpts] Acting Prime Minister al-Huss summoned the representatives of the five major powers to a meeting at Government House at 1600. [passage omitted]

A short time ago a security source revealed that after Daniel Simpson, the U.S. charge d'affaires, left West Beirut for the eastern area, Lebanese Forces gunmen intercepted him and prevented him from entering the eastern area.

Simpson returned to the western area, while his escorts remained at the crossing point.

**Al-Huss Hands Ambassadors Document on Government**
*NC2309174088 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Sep 88*

[Text] Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss received the ambassadors of the five major powers and the Greek charge d'affaires this afternoon. In his capacity as foreign

minister, he handed them a memorandum stressing that the second government that President Amin al-Jumayyil has formed under the army commander is an illegal one. The memorandum adds that the appointment of this government violates the bases of the national charter, constitutional norms, and the clear provisions of the constitution.

The memorandum notes that the refusal by three members of the 6-man cabinet to join it means that it does not have a legal quorum. The government of Dr al-Huss still exists and is legitimate, the memorandum states. Hence there is no power vacuum and the government has complete jurisdiction to exercise executive authority.

The memorandum also stresses that Dr al-Huss' government will act on this basis at local and foreign levels in its capacity as the legitimate government.

### Soviet Envoy Refuses To Meet With 'Awn

*NC2409104388 Paris AFP in English 1029 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Excerpt] Beirut, Sept 24 (AFP)—The Soviet ambassador to Lebanon on Saturday snubbed General Michel 'Awn, the newly appointed prime minister of a controversial government, by refusing to meet him.

The meeting was part of separate talks Gen. 'Awn, who is also commander of the Lebanese Armed Forces, had requested with the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council (which also groups China, Britain, France and the United States).

Soviet Ambassador Vasiliy Kolotusha did not attend the talks at the presidential palace of B'abda, southeast of Beirut, a correspondent said.

Diplomatic sources said he was awaiting "instructions from his country."

But the previous day, Mr. Kolotusha met with interim Prime Minister Salim al-Huss, whose caretaker cabinet has challenged the legitimacy of the 'Awn government.

The Al-Huss and the 'Awn cabinets are trying to gain international recognition for their administrations.

French Ambassador Paul Blanc said after the talks with Gen. 'Awn that Lebanon's friends hoped for the "the election, as soon as possible" of a successor to Mr. al-Jumayyil.

His British counterpart Allan Ramsey and the U.S. charge d'affaires, Daniel Simpson, declined to comment on the meeting.

China's charge d'affaires said his government hoped that the Lebanese would "take into account their national interest and solve their differences through discussions and peaceful means."

The Vatican's envoy to Lebanon, Monsignor Luciano Angeloni, also met with Gen. 'Awn and stressed the need to maintain "sovereignty, independence, equality and the principles of democracy" in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

### Further on Meeting, Boycott

*NC2409130588 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Text] General 'Awn today summoned the dean of the diplomatic corps and the ambassadors of the five big powers, permanent members of the UN Security Council, to the Presidential Palace to inform them of the true motives for the formation of the military government and its objectives. A responsible source has summarized these objectives as ensuring presidential elections and maintaining legitimacy through safeguarding the freedom of candidacy and voting. Only Soviet Ambassador Vasiliy Kolotusha did not attend.

The British ambassador and U.S. Charge d'Affaires Daniel Simpson made no statements on leaving B'abda Palace. Nor did the Chinese ambassador or the Greek ambassador, whose country chairs the EC. However, French Ambassador Paul Blanc, who met earlier with Prime Minister General 'Awn, described the meeting as very good. He asserted that France, like all the friends of Lebanon, wishes the elections to take place and for Lebanon to have a new president.

### Al-Huss Cabinet Meets at Government House 24 Sep

*NC2409082188 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has been chairing a Cabinet meeting at government house since 1015. The meeting is being attended by Ministers 'Adil 'Usayran, Nabih Birri, Walid Junblatt, and 'Abdallah al-Rasi. Cabinet Secretary General Hisham al-Sha'ar is also attending. The ministers will discuss the possibility of expahnding the government if Ministers Joseph al-Hashim and Victor Qasir refuse to participate.

Preliminary discussions dealt with the possibility of incorporating maronite, Sunni, and Greek Orthodox figures into the Cabinet to complete the 10 member Cabinet structure initiated by late Prime Minister Rashid Karami with the national unity government.

The government, through Defense Minister 'Adil 'Usayran, will ask Army Commander General Michel 'Awn to place himself at the disposal of the legitimate government. He will be tasked to take the necessary measures to form a security force capable of maintaining security in a large area to ensure that a Chamber of Deputies session can be held to elect a new president.

### Cabinet Issues Statement

*NC2409111388 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Statement issued following a Cabinet meeting in West Beirut under Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss on 24 September; read by Cabinet Secretary Hisham al-Sha'ar—recorded]

[Text] The Cabinet held a meeting at the Government House at 1030 today, 24 September, under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss. The meeting was attended by Ministers 'Adil 'Usayran, Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi, Nabih Birri, and Walid Junblatt. Ministers Joseph al-Hashim, Victor Qasir, and Joseph Skaf were absent from the meeting.

The ministers discussed the serious conditions now facing Lebanon. His excellency the prime minister explained the government's framework of action and defined its tasks. He also explained the circumstances surrounding the end of former President Amin al-Jumayyil's term and the consultations which took place between the Presidential Palace and his excellency the prime minister in an attempt to change the present government.

The ministers then discussed the general situation and adopted the following decisions:

1. To appoint His Excellency Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi as deputy prime minister;

2. To ask Defense Minister 'Usayran to send a letter to the Army commander calling on him not to engage in politics and to devote himself to his responsibilities as Army commander or be held accountable;

3. To agree on the rules which must be followed in government work and to consider the Cabinet a collective body exercising executive powers; and

4. To send a memorandum to all diplomatic missions abroad explaining the situation arising from the failure to elect a president of the Republic and the Cabinet's position on the situation.

### Al-Huss on New Ministers

*NC2409171588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In the course of his response to questions put to him by journalists, Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss said that new ministers can be appointed to the government at any time. Asked what will happen if the Army commander does not comply with the instructions given him, Al-Huss said: We will cross that bridge when we come to it.

Acting Prime Minister al-Huss reiterated that General 'Awn's government is an illegitimate government for several reasons, because it is contrary to the national charter, the constitutional norms, and even the constitutional provisions.

### Al-Huss Makes Statement

*NC2409114788 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1045 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Statement by "Prime Minister" Dr Salim al-Huss at the Government House in Beirut on 24 September—recorded]

[Text] It pains us to have reached a situation against which we had warned. God is our witness that we made efforts to avoid this situation. We endeavored beside those in the Presidential Palace, with whom we had talks during the few hours that preceded the end of former President Amin al-Jumayyil's term, to reach an agreement on the formation of a conciliatory government which would shoulder the regime's responsibilities in the event a new president was not elected. But, regrettably, these endeavors met a blind alley, although our proposals were just, fair, and very practical. We cannot understand why they were rejected.

We did not want to reach this reality, nor did we want to continue in this situation. Our principal concern was that this anamolous situation would end. We will consider the situation as anamolous until a new president of the Republic has been elected.

We also believe our main task is to use all possible means to achieve the following objective: to ensure the convening of the Chamber of Deputies to elect a new president of the Republic.

It is often said that the situation resulting from the failure to elect a president of the Republic is a ministerial crisis or a crisis involving the government status. It has been said many times, however, that it is a dispute betqween two governments. This is not true. There is no crisis involving the government status, and there is no struggle between two governments. There is only one legitimate government: this government. But the crisis directly involves parliamentary status, and the government is not directly involved in it.

The Chamber did not convene to elect a president of the Republic, which has generated this crisis. This crisis would end with the convening of the Chamber of Deputies to elect a new president of the Republic. We hope and insist that endeavors continue to ensure the convening of the elections session as soon as possible so that this anomolous situation will end.

We do not like this situation. We are not satisfied with it. Therefore, we are working tirelessly to end it as soon as possible on the basis of our commitment to Lebanon's unity. We have been saying and will continue to say that Lebanon's unity should be our first and foremost objective.

The Cabinet met this morning in its first session under the present situation. You have been informed of the most important decision made during this session, but I want to point out that we began this session by talking about the tasks of this government. I would like to state the most important general outlines of what we deem to constitute this government's framework of action and the essence of this government's task.

We agreed during this Cabinet session that the task of this government is to run the affairs of the country until a new president of the Republic is elected and to do what is necessary to ensure that the elections are carried out on the political and security levels in a free democratic atmosphere. This will naturally demand a demonstration of unity of the executive authority, safeguarding the unity of the political and administrative decisionmaking.

This also demands providing the maximum prerequisites of steadfastness and honor for the citizens by safeguarding the pillars of security and stability in all parts of Lebanon, continuing work for the liberation of Lebanese territory from Israeli occupation, ensuring the continued operation of the state services and institutions, and ensuring continuation of normal functioning of economic and monetary institutions.

We are aware that basing ourselves on the legitimacy of the present government assumes complete abidance by the legitimate authority in all areas. This means that all circles must act on the basis that the government is temporary and transitional, with a task limited to running the affairs of the country until a new president of the Republic is elected and a new government is formed and to do everything necessary on the political and security levels to enable the Chamber of Deputies to exercise its constitutional duty in electing a new president of the Republic, according to the rules and in a free democratic atmosphere.

We also agreed that abidance by the principle of caretaker demands that we safeguard the structures of official administrations, institutions, and departments. it also demands that we fully respect the existing system and abidance by the existing legal provisions and maintain the legitimate aspect of the state's relations with the people and the outside world.

### 'Former Government' Measures To Be Disregarded

*NC2409130188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Text] The prime minister has issued Circular No 1 to public and municipal institutions and departments. Public institutions and departments and municipalities are to abide by the following instructions:

1. Do not implement any administrative, financial, or dipldomatic measure unless required by the legitimate government, which has been formed in implementation of the Constitution's provisions and headed by General 'Awn; and

2. Refrain from executing any measure of any form or nature, no matter how important, issued by the former government. This former government resigned, its resignation was accepted, and, thus it lost its legitimacy and powers under penalty of administrative and criminal law.

### Minister Hands Over Duties to Officers

*NC2409134888 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Text] Victor Qasir, minister of housing, cooperatives, economy, and trade, handed over his ministerial duties to Colonel 'Isam Abu Jamrah today in the presence of Engineer Antoine Sham'un, director of cooperatives; Antoine Muzhir, chief of the Independent Fund for Housing; and senior ministry officials.

In his capacity as minister of oil and industry, Victgor Qasir also handed over his ministerial duties to Brigadier General Ma'luf in the presence of the director general of industry.

### General 'Awn Gives News Conference 24 Sep

*NC2409123088 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1135 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[News conference by General Michel 'Awn, "prime minister and defense and information minister," with unidentified correspondents, in B'abda Palace on 24 September—recorded]

[Text] ['Awn] O newsmen, and, through you, to the Lebanese leaders, and resident and expatriate Lebanese: This government's mission is to ensure the transfer of power in a speedy, sound, and free way. This government must not be viewed as one that was established by a military coup. This government exists solely to ensure that a president of the Republic is elected in total freedom and democracy; in other words, to ensure that the nomination and election are held in a totally free and democratic atmosphere. This should be carried out by guaranteeing security for free parliamentary elections, according to the law, Constitution, and norms.

For further emphasis, I repeat, in the name of my colleague officers in this government and in the name of the Lebanese Army in all districts: We are eager to ensure a free parliamentary and democratic system, as we have asserted in our previous statements. I again reaffirm today our commitment to our military oath which compels us to be advocates, not usurpers, of democracy. If we had wanted this, we would have sought to usurp democracy when other, more favorable opportunities had appeared.

Thus, we would like to reassure political and spiritual leaders, as well as various national personalities, that we do not covet the role of rulers. However, at the same time, we pledge to our people that we will not bargain over their fate nor leave them in a state of confusion.

We will ensure that the trust is bestowed to the appropriate quarters and continues. We are neither fond of adventurism in the homeland nor of adventurism with regard to the people and the system. Nor do we seek to gamble for the rule of the country or for the holy national people's will.

O Lebanese: The signs of division that appeared after the proclamation of this government would have followed the proclamation of any government, political or military, small or large, parliamentary or not. It would have been supported by a half of the political leadership and rejected by the other half. As a matter of fact, such a division existed within the former government, for whose prime minister and members we harbor only esteem and appreciation.

Had the government of Dr Salim al-Huss remained, divisions over it would certainly have persisted. This is because the divisions in the political leadership are not a result of a deep popular rift, as much as a reflection of the imposed Lebanese situation, which is a result of regional disputes and external international interests.

O Lebanese, the formation of this government could be a cause for deepening the division and entrenching the partition. However, it also could turn into means by which conciliation and unity could be achieved. To be drawn into the whirlpool of the debate about two governments, both of which lack full support, and to recognize both of them, only means that we are taking the shortest course to partitioning the homeland into two, the state into statelets, and the people into lost and desperate groups.

Therefore, I, members of my government, my officer colleagues, and in the name of the Army—which has suffered for a long time from divisions, policies, and conflicts to which it never has been a party—can only appeal to our national leaderships to rise above the level of debate and to give the government the required support so that it can accomplish its mission as quickly as possible and in the best and most sound way. The homeland, not the government, is the aim. The people's salvation is the issue. History will never forgive those who have lost their homeland and cause because of an irresponsible debate on the government or because of the striving for personal gain.

O Lebanese, a responsible and courageous stand is required to save the constitutional deadline, to save the homeland from the grave possibilities, and to put it on the course of uniting its legitimacy and restoring its sovereignty. Lebanon has been a burden to itself and its brothers, a burden to its friends and friendships for far too long. The time has come for it to retrive its own identity and role in serving its people and performing its active Arab and full cultural and humanitarian roles. We always paid the price for a weak Lebanon. Let us for once try to test a strong Lebanon, whose strength is derived from its people's unity, the conciliation of its leaders, and self-reliance.

We almost lost this homeland on other occasions. The time has come for us to retrieve it for one final time. When the price to be paid concerns the homeland and its destiny, then responsibility requires us to rise above all other considerations. Let us rise and stand tall for the sake of Lebanon. Long live Lebanon.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency General 'Awn, Prime Minister and Minister of Defense and Information: You said in your statement that this or any other government that could have been formed will be supported by some and opposed by some. How will your government deal with the facts you have spoken of?

['Awn] The fact is that this government reveals the intentions. Let me tell you of how it was chosen. You know that the former government picked the Military Council. Members of this council have three characteristics. The first one is the semi-personal representation of the former cabinet members. There is personal representation. Dr al-Huss, Minister Nabih Birri, and Walid Junblatt have representatives in the Military Council. Thus, the nearest military figures to them are represented. The second characteristic is that they have the representative capacity of the political forces. When the government was formed after the Lausanne conference, it represented the balance of powers in Lebanon.

The Military Council also represents the balance of powers in Lebanon because it is an extension of this government. The third characteristic is the representative capacity of the Lebanese religious families from all sects. All the norms are thus respected but because the sharp political differences made everyone evade their responsibility, they threw the ball of fire into our hands. We as military men are known to accept sacrifice and duty. We received the ball and took it. We have not sought the authority, nor have we seized it.

We have accepted an impossible mission; we took it upon our shoulders. Thus, this military government can be said to have been moved from one institution to another. It moved from one political institution which has been in conflict for 14 years and stayed until the last minutes of the former regime without reaching the minimum level of conciliation to form a government. That is, it moved from the political hand to the military one. We as an institution have primary responsibility for bearing the greatest sacrifice because our lives are built on sacrifices.

[Correspondent] Can we consider the rejection of this government or any other one that could have been formed to be a rejection of the homeland as it is or as we want it to be?

['Awn] I do not want to go into political intentions. What I am saying is that this government is an honorable way out for all the parties. It will reveal the intentions. The way out is there for those who want it. This government has not dismissed anyone at all. There were hundreds of ways to bypass the form or essence on the issue of forming the government. But that is not the case. It came very simply, so that each party can find an honorable way out of the acute political crisis we faced the day the government was formed.

[Indistinct question by correspondent]

['Awn] You have asked the question and answered it. However, I want to tell you something: As far as we are concerned, we will issue a directive to the state employees banning them from implementing any order that is issued by the outgoing government whose task (?has ended), or else they will be held personally accountable. It is not a council of ministers that is meeting. There is a meeting...

[Correspondent, interrupting] A ministerial meeting?

['Awn] Not a ministerial meeting either. You cannot confer any status on it.

[Correspondent] All right, should any specific decisions be adopted, what would your position be?

['Awn] It has no status. Such decisions would be those made by a meeting of a political group. This group can make whatever decisions it wants. But as far as we are concerned, such things are invalid.

[Correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, Prime Minister al-Huss yesterday summoned the ambassadors of major powers to meet with him. The first question is: In what capacity did he summon them? The second question is: If he continues to take such steps, will Your Excellency or the Lebanese Government adopt a serious stand on this matter?

['Awn] The ambassadors are present in Lebanon to deal with political affairs and to contact the various Lebanese personalities. In such a capacity they can deal with anybody, but as far as in what capacity he had asked to talk to them, they [Al-Huss' people] have not yet made this clear.

[Correspondent] Who is going to ensure freedom of expression in areas that have no legitimate authority?

['Awn] This is the current problem. As for the freedom of elections, no one should believe that transferring the session from Al-Najmah Square to Mansur Palace will ensure freedom of elections. For the last time, I clearly state that the venue is not important. There are circumstances and conditions to ensure freedom; one of these is the venue.

Also, the candidate should be free to nominate himself and make contacts; the political fronts should be free to declare their support and to engage in activities; the elector should be free to vote in the Chamber of Deputies; there should be freedom in appearing before the media and in supporting a certain candidate. Everybody should exercise this freedom. If there is no freedom of nomination, that will not do. A certain person nominates himself, so nobody else has any right to speak—this is not freedom of nomination.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] There is no declaration of steps in advance. You will learn of these steps once we make the decision.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] As for the military government's stand, there is no position. We are not asking them to make a stand. We are an existing legitimate government and we are exercising our authority. [Words indistinct] We are clarifying a certain situation to the ambassadors. A stand is not allowed.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] The government will contact Syria. We will send an announced official envoy to put Syria in the picture, just as we are putting people here in the picture about the formation of the government.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] I am not the one who will propose this. The deputies are the ones who will do so; the deputies will propose this so that the candidates may say what they want. I will provide security for him.

[Correspondent] Mr General Prime Minister, today you received the ambassadors of the five major powers. Do you intend to contact or meet with the Arab states' ambassadors for the same purpose, and when?

['Awn] On Monday. We will receive the ambassadors of all the Arab states that are represented in Lebanon. We will send... ['Awn changes thought] I believe that they have begun to notify them about the Monday meeting so that we may put them in the picture.

[Correspondent] What was the result of today's meeting with the ambassadors?

['Awn] We talked realistically with them. We talked about the circumstances and reasons that led to the emergence of this government, as well as its present duties.

[Correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, in the government statement you said that the government's basic task is to ensure the transition of power in a sound, normal, and quick manner, and also to ensure a free election. It is known that other countries, including the United States, interfered recently and that the Army took a stand on this. How much [words indistinct] the government do to prevent foreign interference and [word indistinct]?

['Awn] When we talk about the atmosphere of freedom, we mean the atmosphere of freedom, not half freedom, a quarter freedom, and a (?one third) freedom.

[Correspondent] Are you still a candidate for president of the republic?

['Awn] I am still not a candidate for president of the republic. I said when I was Army commander, and I repeat, that either I move from the Army Command to the presidency of the republic without being a candidate for a single moment or I do not move. Either I am called to assume authority or I am not called, as happened the other day. I did not nominate myself to head the government. When all the people saw that the ball was burning their hands, chests, and clothes, they threw it to me. I accepted it as a military man.

[Correspondent] Some ambassadors had an audience with Your Excellency today. When they emerged, they seemed hesitant in their statements and most of them refused to answer questions. Does this hesitation outside reflect a hesitation inside?

['Awn] Not at all. The meeting was very clear. But as they say in French, the diplomatic language: C'est le monde de propos caches.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] Three days ago, the U.S. Administration was not encouraging the formation of a transitional government in Lebanon. Has Daniel Simpson conveyed the U.S. Administration's stand on the government?

['Awn] I am telling you that diplomacy is c'est le monde de propos caches. Not everything that is evident is the truth and vice versa.

[Correspondent] Is there a U.S. stand [words indistinct]?

['Awn] There are no stands. I was the one who summoned them. I did so; they did not ask to meet me. Hence, you should know that I, not they, have something to convey.

[Correspondent] Then what stand did you convey to them?

['Awn] I told you that diplomacy is another world. Diplomacy has its practiced traditions. We announce a step when there is something compelling.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] They were put in the overall picture of the events.

[Correspondent] General, are there any direct contacts between you and Prime Minister al-Huss? Have there been direct contacts in the past 2 or 3 days?

['Awn] We will announce them at the proper time.

[Correspondent] General, you spoke of memorandums to be distributed to official departments. How can these memorandums be implemented in the areas that [words indistinct]?

['Awn] Those who can implement will do so and those who do not will have to justify the reasons for not doing so. There is still the Lebanese penal code. One has to have a justifiable excuse when he commits a particular crime if he wants to be spared punishment. Whoever has no justifiable excuse [words indistinct].

[Correspondent] You said in your news conference that the decisions made by the key political figures in the other areas are ones they are compelled to make because there are pressures on them...

['Awn, interrrupting] I said that much?

[Correspondent] By implication. These pressures...

['Awn, interrupting] Tell the respected correspondents again not to imply in your questions things that I have not said. Please, I in particular do not like these [words indistinct]. But now in order to make relations with the press correct, I say that I like the correspondents very much. No one should pose a trick question because the answer will be harsh. Do not quote me for something I have not said. Do not infer beyond what I say, please, particularly when asking a question. This is banned. I am talking to you frankly, with affection.

[Correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, what is your response to Chamber of Deputies Speaker al-Husayni? He asked you yesterday to take a nationalist stand because you are commander of the Army and are committed to patriotism. He called on you to confer with him and forsake this. Also, what is your response to Defense Minister 'Usayran who told you...

['Awn, interrupting] One at a time. First, he is asking me for a patriotic stand. My current stand is patriotic. I have accepted a burning job. This is the correct patriotic stand. We are accepting a burning task that no one can hold in his lap any longer. Is it a patriotic stand to abandon everything and escape?

[Correspondent] This is your response!

['Awn] I am responding to him in this sense.

[Correspondent] The second question is: Former Defense Minister 'Adil 'Usayran said after meeting with Speaker al-Husayni that General 'Awn remains the Army commander and will listen to the defense minister. What is your reply?

['Awn] You are asking me about a person I like and respect. My relationship with him is very good. I can tell him through you that I understand him and he understands me. [applause]

### Birri Comments on General 'Awn's Circular No 1

*NC2409162588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Text] Commenting on General 'Awn's Circular No 1, Minister Nabih Birri said: The instructions given to the employees apply to the Army commander and any political action the commander carries out will make him accountable to the government.

### Central Bank To Fund 'Both Governments'

*NC2509064188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 25 Sep 88*

[Text] Central Bank Governor Dr Edmond Na'im has said he will transfer funds for both governments, but only within the limits of basic needs, such as payment of salaries and purchase of fuel.

REUTER has cited a Central Bank source as saying that Dr Salim al-Huss has tried to defuse the tension over government finances by warning Damascus that he would resign if Syrian-backed militias attempt to take control of the Central Bank.

### Dahir: 'Interim' Government 'Politically Dead'

*JN2509065588 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 25 Sep 88*

[Text] In an interview held with him by the radio and television team and aired last night, Mikha'il Dahir, Lebanese deputy and presidential candidate, said that the government, which has been called an interim one, is politically dead, as it is impermissible to form any Lebanese Government in the absence of genuine participation by all groups and categories—which has been customary since the first government in Lebanon was formed.

Dahir added that Lebanon cannot be immune, capable, strong, sovereign, and independent unless its people become one cohesive body and there is social justice between citizens and regions—justice which would strengthen ties and render this country [Lebanon] capable of facing up to the malicious conspiracies which have wreaked havoc in it through the cracks left by an unjust formula.

On his meeting with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, the Lebanese deputy said: Actually, I left with the impression that the Arab homeland can never be endangered in the presence of leaders such as Hafiz al-Asad.

### Al-Huss Denies Accepting Confederal System

*NC2509092788 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 25 Sep 88*

[Text] In an interview published by the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN today, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss denied reports that he accepts the establishment of a confederal union between his government and the so-called government of the Army commander, Gneeral Michel 'Awn. He said he rejects this idea completely.

Prime Minister al-Huss added: In the first place, we refuse to recognize the legitimacy of this government. He noted that his government is temporary and transitional until a new president is elected.

### Kuwaiti Daily: Al-Huss Rejects Link With 'Awn

*LD2509095688 Kuwait KUNA in English 0810 GMT 25 Sep 88*

[Text] Kuwait, Sept 25 (KUNA)—Lebanon's Premier Salim al-Huss told the Kuwait daily AL-WATAN that his government, which met yesterday in full to explore the situation, was not willing to consider the government of Michel Awn which the Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil formed shortly before his term of office expired last Friday.

During the meeting of Al-Huss Cabinet yesterday, Defense Minister 'Abdil 'Usayran warned General Awn, commander of the Lebanese Army, to attend to his military duties and not become (? involved) in politics.

The Cabinet of Al-Huss yesterday appointed Dr. 'Abdallah al-Rasi, a Christian, as deputy premier before adjourning for the day.

Speaking to AL-WATAN by phone from Beirut yesterday Al-Huss said the function of his government, which he described as provisional and of a definite objective, is to prepare for election of a new president.

Al-Huss was not even willing to entertain the idea of a confederation between Awn and Al-Huss governments in Lebanon engineered by the Americans.

On the same front-page, the newspaper carried a statement for South Yemen Premier Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man strongly rejected the formation of a military government in Lebanon (under General Awn) urging the Lebanese national movement to tackle the situation.

Nu'man, who stopped over here enroute to New York to address the United Nations General Assembly, said his outright rejection of the notion of two governments in Lebanon emanates from his country's firm stance against the partitioning of that Arab state.

### Syrian TV Interviews Interior Minister al-Rasi

*JN2509202188 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 25 Sep 88*

[Interview with Interior Minister Abdallah al-Rasi by unidentified reporter in Beirut—date not given; recorded]

[Excerpt] [Reporter] The Lebanese Cabinet convened yesterday, and you made a number of decisions pointing out that Michel Awn's military coup is neither legal nor legitimate. What are the measures being contemplated against those who have or are about to declare their rejection of the decisions of Dr Al-Huss' government?

[Al-Rasi] I'd like to make a crucially important point. As a unionist government, our preeminent concern is that this country stay united bearing in mind that ours is the legitimate government and as such is supposed to observe the law of the land. During our meeting yesterday, we decided to send a letter to the army commander effectively ordering him back to the barracks and to stay away from politics. If he should refuse to comply, he will be subject to the due process of the law. We have also decided to send out circulars to all departments and institutions instructing them to take their orders from our government.

If they refuse to comply, they will be subject to our penal code which provides for a warning as a first step and dismissal or disciplinary action as the ultimate measure. We are also eager to hold the presidential vote. We will intensify our contacts until a new Lebanese president is voted into office. A third equally important point is that we should address the daily concerns of the public including water, electricity, and road services as well as food supplies. These are our present preoccupations. We will spare no effort as we pursue them. [passage omitted]

### Socialist Politburo Rejects Military Government

*NC2309135488 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 23 Sep 88*

[Statement issued by the PSP Political Bureau; date, place not given]

[Text] 1. The military government formed by Amin al-Jumayyil is a blatant, sectarian partition and division. It is only a body of Army staff officers formed by the isolationist party that is controlled by Bkirki and its factional stand. This government has no legal or constitutional basis and is merely a stab at Lebanon's written and agreed-on Constitution. It is a military coup against the legitimate authority as represented by the government of Dr Salim al-Huss. This government alone enjoys the confidence of the Chamber of Deputies and represents all political trends and Lebanon's spiritual families.

2. We see a clear harmony between the decisions of Bkirki and the regime and the daily Israeli advice and recommendations as voiced by Lubrani and the revival of the imperialist-crusader's notion raised by some Western circles, which has encouraged and is encouraging the isolationist party in Lebanon to continue along the road of sectarian partitioning.

3. The Lebanese are committed to Lebanon's sole legitimate government, namely that of Dr Salim al-Huss, out of their concern for Lebanon's unity and the integrity of all its establishments. Every sincere Lebanese vehemently condemns the partitionist course of the party in the eastern areas and its insistence on impeding the presidential elections in order to bring the country to the critical point of partition.

4. The unilateral action by Amin al-Jumayyil and his factional party in forming a government of challenge to Lebanon's unity, Muslims, and those who believe in its Arabism and democracy, will be rejected out of hand and will necessarily be confronted to save the country from the forces of partition and Zionism. Commitment to Dr Salim al-Huss' government will be the starting point for organizing the all-out confrontation, for organizing the steadfastness of the nationalist areas, and for raising it to the level of liberating and uniting Lebanon.

5. The Lebanese people are called on today to express their full condemnation of the decision to partition Lebanon, which is being carried out by Amin al-Jumayyil in fulfillment of his pledges to Israel and in betrayal of his constitutional oath.

### Party Moves Tanks, Carriers to Suq al-Gharb Front

*NC2409183288 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1815 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Text] A PSP [Progressive Socialist Party] military convoy consisting of tanks, armored personnel carriers, and jeeps was spotted moving from 'Ayn Zhalta in the direction of the Suq al-Gharb front this evening.

### Plans To Assassinate Amal Officials Alleged

*NC2409052388 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Text] According to information received by Radio Free Lebanon, a state of confusion is crippling the Amal Movement in Tyre in the wake of the assassination of Dawud Dawud, Mahmud Faqih, and Hasan Sbaytah.

The same information discloses that plans have been drawn up by Hizballah and the Hawari group [as heard] to assassinate other Amal leaders in the South. It has been reported that key Amal figures 'Abd al-Majid Salih, 'Ali Hurays, and Muhammad Harqus are the principal targets of the plans.

### RPG Hits Bristol Hotel in W. Beirut, Causes Fire

*NC2409214088 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2115 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Text] The third floor of the Bristol Hotel in West Beirut was hit by a rocket propelled grenade at 2215 today. Bursts of gunfire followed.

The explosion of the grenade caused a fire and extensive material damage. The Syrian forces immediately cordoned off the area and fired into the air to prevent people from gathering.

It has been reported that Robert Franjiyah has set up an office on the hotel's third floor since his father announced that he is a presidential candidate.

### New Amal 'Martyrs' Group Destroys Israeli APC

*NC2509174788 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Sep 88*

[Text] The Martyrs Dawud Dawud, Al-Hajj Mahmud Faqih, and Al-Hajj Hasan Sbayti Group of the Karbala' Company of the Lebanese Resistance Group-Amal detonated several explosive devices while an Israeli patrol in an M-113 vehicle was passing on the 'Alman-al-Shumariyah road at 1600 today. The vehicle was completely destroyed and those in it were killed. A raging fire was seen in the vehicle from afar.

Following the operation, the enemy became hysterical and began shelling the villages of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, using 120-mm guns. Several houses in the villages were damaged and two citizens from Zawtar al-Sharqiyah were matryred. The shelling was still continuing at 1730 today.

### Group Holding Hostages Waits for U.S. Action

*NC2309193388 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1920 GMT 23 Sep 88*

[Text] The Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine Organization said today that it is willing to make arrangements for the release of the hostages it is holding at any positive reaction from the United States.

This came in a statement written in Arabic which was handed tonight to a Western news agency in Beirut. Attached to the statement was an instant photograph of four hostages, three American college teachers and an Indian.

### AL-NAHAR Publishes 3d Jihad Statement

*NC2609083988 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 24 Sep 88 pp 1, 10*

[Text] In the third statement it has sent to AL-NAHAR in 8 days, the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine [IJLP] renews its offer to "resolve" the issue of the four hostages it is holding—Beirut University College professors Alann Steen, Robert Polhill, Jesse Turner, and Mithileshwar Singh—provided that the U.S. Administration takes a positive stand on the Palestinian people's rights. The organization believes that "there has been no change or anything new" in Washington's announcements in this regard.

The organization enclosed a Polaroid color photograph of the four professors holding a sign in English saying: "The Palestinian people want the right to self-determination. Don't lose opportunity. Move to set us free."

The text of the statement is as follows:

In response to the U.S. Administration's stand on the initiative to resolve the hostages issue, the organization of the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine announces the following:

First: We have launched an initiative to resolve the hostages issue in a straightforward and serious manner. We have given very clear signals and our stand is not ambiguous. Our initiative falls within the framework of the prevailing positive atmosphere which favors the resolution of regional crises. The entire world knows the significance of the remaining days of this year in international affairs in general and the Middle East in particular. The key to resolving many of the region's crises lies in seizing the current opportunity. We dare say that before the end of this year there will be many surprises which may either complicate the crises further or lead to a solution. We have prepared ourselves for all possibilities either way.

Regarding the hostages issue, if reason and understanding prevail we will definitely steer the issue toward a solution and we will perform our duties in line with the interests of our people. Regarding the situation in general, we are prepared for the worst in the issues of this region which, we believe, are interlinked. We hope that we will not have to resort to violence to achieve what we fail to do through peaceful means. In this case there will be an all-out confrontation of all American interests, Nazis, and Zionists. However, we insist and lay stress on positive solutions and the U.S. Administration has to consider the options.

Second: We are surprised at the statements of the U.S. Administration which more than once indicate that it wishes to delay this issue's solution (as though it wants to evade its responsibility to exert pressure to remove and overcome all the barriers and obstacles which impede positive developments in the Middle East, "and this is a

clear phrase which must be studied on depth.") The circumstances are favorable for a positive solution of crises on the basis of the recognition of one's duties and respect for the rights of the peoples of the region, particularly the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. This is an equally clear reference which is neither vague nor ambiguous.

Third: What the U.S. Administration regards as a solid stand on the rights of the Palestinian people is in fact what was stipulated by the Camp David accord, and its sole interpretation is the so-called autonomy rule. This accord, which fostered and engineered by Washington, was still born, was buried with the traitor Al-Sadat, who was executed by fellow mujahidin. It is not viable. It is, rather, a concept which should be done away with and replaced by the full recognition of our people's right to self-determination. All American initiatives and solutions are on the verge of complete collapse.

Washington has no other alternative but to recognize this and adapt itself to new developments and changes. Accordingly, we believe that the U.S. Administrations' stand on our people's rights has so far not reflected any change or anything new. This is what we firmly believe.

Finally, we renew and reiterate our affirmation that we are bent on pursuing a solution for this issue seriously, in accordance with our repeated demands. Upon any positive development or response, we are ready to make arrangements for the hostages' families, resolving the issue once and for all. Peace be on those who serve truth for its own sake.

[Signed] The Organization of the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine.

## Israel Continues Attacks on Palestinian Positions

### Warplanes Break Sound Barrier

*NC2309112888 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 23 Sep 88*

[Text] Israeli warplanes broke the sound barrier over the capital shortly after 1300 today.

### Planes Attack Palestinian Positions

*NC2309135088 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1346 GMT 23 Sep 88*

[Text] According to a report we have just received from the south, Israeli warplanes, possibly four, are now raiding Palestinian positions east of Sidon.

### 3 Camps in Sidon Raided

*NC2309140688 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1356 GMT 23 Sep 88*

[Text] Israeli warplanes are continuing their raid on Palestinian positions east of Sidon. A report we received a short while ago said that the raids are now targeted against positions in the camps of Al-Miyah wa Miyah, 'Ayn al-Hulwah, and 'Ayn al-Dulb, where fires can be seen. Antiaircraft guns are confronting the Israeli aircraft.

### Air Raids on Camps Resumed

*NC2309142988 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon Arabic 1417 GMT 23 Sep 88*

[Text] We have just received reports that Israeli warplanes resumed their raids on Palestinian positions in 'Ayn al-Hulwah, Al-Miyah wa Miyah, 'Ayn al-Dulb, and Al-Qurayyah in Sidon at 1710. Israeli warplanes first raided these Palestinian positions shortly after 1630 this afternoon.

### 5 Reported Wounded in Raids

*NC2309161588 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1604 GMT 23 Sep 88*

[Excerpt] Five Israeli warplanes carried out a series of air raids between 1630 and 1720 today against Palestinian military positions in Al-Qurayyah, 'Ayn al-Dulb, and Jinsnaya east of Sidon.

The warplanes, three Sky Hawks and two Phantoms, attracted antiaircraft fire. A number of fires broke out in the area, and five persons have been reported wounded. [passage omitted]

### Fatah, DFLP Positions Destroyed

*NC2309165988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1633 GMT 23 Sep 88*

[Text] Four Israeli planes carried out an air raid attack against Palestinian positions belonging to Fatah in the areas east of Sidon at 1630 today. The attack, which was conducted in two stages, left five people dead or wounded and destroyed a Fatah naval base. One raid was carried out by two warplanes, which in the space of 1 and ½ minutes dropped a number of bombs over Al-Ashrafiyah hill in Al-Miyah wa Miyah. Meanwhile, two other warplanes provided cover for the attacking aircraft. Fires were seen in the area and the Israeli planes were confronted with antiaircraft fire.

A short time ago, Fatah issued a statement in which it said four people had been wounded and three were missing.

At 1710 the Israeli planes resumed their raids in three successive waves which lasted for 5 minutes. The planes twice launched attacks against two Fatah centers, manned by the Fatah militia forces under the command of Muhsin al-Khallaq, on Al-Ashrafiyah hill in Al-Miyah wa Miyah. The two centers were completely destroyed when 10 rockets were fired at them. The third attack targeted a DFLP center in 'Ayn al-Dulb, which was hit by two rockets.

Israeli flights also extended as far as the capital, where they broke the sound barrier.

### 2 Dead in Raid

*NC2309195588 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 23 Sep 88*

[Excerpt] Two Palestinians were killed and six others, including a 10-year-old girl, were injured in the Israeli raid this afternoon which destroyed a Fatah base in Al-Miyah wa Miyah camp and another base in Darb al-Sim to the east of Sidon. [passage omitted]

### Gunboat Fires at Camp

*NC2409123388 Paris AFP in English 1225 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Text] Tyre, Lebanon Sept 24 (AFP)—An Israeli gunboat fired at the Palestinian refugee camp of Al-Rashidiyah in southern Lebanon at dawn Saturday after chasing an indentified rubber dinghy off the coast, police here said.

They said there were no casualties.

The gunboat first spotted the dinghy and chased it as it made for at Rasshidiyah, then fired at the camp, hitting several dwellings, police said.

Israeli helicopters then flew reconnaissance flights over the region, according to a correspondent in the area.

The incident came one day after Israeli jets bombed Palestinian targets east of the southern port of Sidon, north of here, killing two people and injuring five others, according to a Palestinian toll.

### Aircraft Draw Fire

*NC2509105988 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 25 Sep 88*

[Text] According to security reports, Israeli warplanes flew over Sidon and the camps at 0900 today, drawing antiaircraft fire which forced the planes to turn back toward the occupied Arab territory.

### Complaint Over Israeli Air Raids Submitted to UN

*NC2609062488 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 26 Sep 88*

[Text] Lebanon has lodged a complaint with the UN Security Council against the Israeli air strikes on Palestinian positions east of Sidon on Friday, 23 September. The complaint also stipulates that Israeli naval forces destroyed and sank a rubber boat off the Tyre coast, killing three fedayeen. Also, two women were killed in an Israeli bombardment of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah.

According to diplomatic sources, Ambassador Rashid Fakhuri, Lebanon's permanent representative at the United Nations, submitted this complaint, which is described as urgent, to the Security Council president 2 days ago.

### PFLP-GC Shells Israeli Targets in South

*JN2409193888 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Text] An official PFLP-GC military spokesman has stated the following:

A group of the fedayeen units which belong to the PFLP-GC today, Saturday, 24 September 1988, used 107-mm rockets to shell the headquarters of the so-called Zionist military governor and the Zionist enemy agents' concentrations in Tallat Zaghlah in occupied southern Lebanon. The rockets scored direct hits on their targets. The headquarters were seen in flames with the naked eye. Armed struggle will continue until the liberation of land and man.

### Bridge, Railway Blown Up in South

*NC2409094988 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Text] Our correspondent in Sidon has reported that at 0530 today, unidentified persons blew up the narrow 'Alman Bridge and the adjacent railway line which link the South with Iqlim al-Kharrub. The Coastal Road has become the only link between the Iqlim and the South.

### Group Claims Killing Syrian Soldier in Tripoli

*NC2409121388 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Text] The Khalil 'Akkawi group of the 9 February Organization has claimed responsibility for killing a Syrian soldier in Al-Tal Square in Tripoli at 1530 yesterday. The Syrians cordoned off the area afterward, firing haphazardly and arresting people at random. The Syrians also began manning mobile checkpoints, which can still be seen.

**Talas Addresses Participants in Tactical Exercise**
*JN2209210388 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 22 Sep 88*

[Text] Pursuant to directives issued by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, commander in chief of the Army and the Armed Forces, one of our combat formations staged a tactical exercise of live night firing.

General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and the Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister; and Gen 'Ali Aslan, deputy chief of staff of the Army and the Armed Forces, attended the exercise.

At the beginning of the exercise, the exercise commander spoke on the training missions and objectives of the exercise and affirmed that night training is one of the components of the combat action that must be learned well, as the circumstances of the battle with the enemy require our Armed Forces to be ready to carry out all that is required of them and under all circumstances.

At the set time, the units and elements of the formation began to carry out the projected combat actions successfully. They have managed through accurate firing and successful maneuvering to destroy the presumed enemy and achieve the desired objectives.

At the end of the exercise, Gen Talas praised the participants and asked them to continue to promote the level of preparedness and readiness. He affirmed that we are waging two battles at the same time—that of confronting the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary enemy as well as that of construction, since construction is a basic mainstay in the liberation battle.

Gen Talas also asserted that the Army of Hafiz al-Asad will remain prepared to carry out all that might be required of it in the pan-Arab arena until the Arab Nation's objectives of victory and liberation are attained.

**Al-Shar' Departs Paris for New York UN Meetings**
*JN2509150088 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1415 GMT 25 Sep 88*

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' left Paris for New York today to lead the Syrian delegation to the 43d session of the UN General Assembly.

**Commentary on 'Freak Government' in Lebanon**
*JN2309122488 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Sep 88*

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: In the past few days the eyes of the Lebanese people were set on the Chamber of Deputies and the Lebanese political forces as they awaited the election of a new president during the period stipulated by the Constitution before the expiry of the constitutional term of President Amin al-Jumayyil.

Instead of the presidential elections being held within the constitutional period, the formation of a freak military government, three of whose members immediately declined to accept the ministerial portfolios assigned to them, was announced.

If the sides that stood behind the formation of that freak government believed it was a surprise, the government in fact was not a suprise to the Lebanese, neither in form nor in content, because the forces that stood behind it are known to all the Lebanese. The motives of these forces are known:

They do not converge with Lebanese national interests and do not spring from anxiousness for Lebanon's unity and the coexistence of its citizens and adherence to the principles and factors that safeguard Lebanon's existence and continuity.

The forces that brought the people this caricature of a government—and a known small minority that usurped the powers and functions of the legal authorities in their areas, set up a seccessionist infrastructure, prevented the Chamber of Deputies from carrying out its national and constitutional task of electing a new president, detained deputies, and tried to impose their will on the Lebanese through force, violence, and mutiny—are the forces that tried and are trying to impose the dictatorship of fascism on all Lebanese.

They oppose the great majority of Lebanese, proclaim themselves a trustee of Lebanon and the Lebanese, and usurp the right to accept or reject presidential candidates.

What these forces—indeed cliques—have done so far has no connection with Lebanon's national interests and ultimately does not serve Lebanon and the Lebanese, but serves the declared interests of Israel—the enemy of Lebanon and the Arabs.

The action of these cliques, from the time talk began on the constitutional deadline of the presidential elections and the oscillating stands they adopted and their reneging on the contacts and agreements they made, can be construed only in the light of the lines they long ago opened with Israel.

The actions of these cliques serve Israel and not Lebanon. The freak government intended to strike at the people's aspirations for territorial integrity and unity and the reformation of constitutional institutions. Carrying out indispensible political reforms was in fact stillborn because the Lebanese do not recognize it when there is a legal government that includes representatives of all Lebanese groups and trends; represents Lebanon's unity, identity, and national interests; adheres to the

provisions of the Constitution and the law, and seeks to implement the constitutional requirements in a climate of national understanding and resist all divisive trends and manifestations that serve Israel.

The people in Lebanon have denounced the acts of the divisionist clique which wagers on and cooperates with Israel. They isolated and exposed the objectives of this clique. This people can safeguard their unity and the safety and independence of their homeland. They will not allow any divisionist phenomenon to exist.

Every divisionist phenomenon will fail before the Lebanese people's insistence on unity and coexistence, justice and equality, as well as their concern about the national accord and national solution.

Syria has exerted huge efforts to help the Lebanese brothers carry out the constitutional task concerning the presidential elections and get onto the path of national accord. However, these cliques—involved in non-nationalist relations with Israel—have insisted on wrecking Lebanon, undermning the foundations of its political entity, and disrupting the unity of the country.

Therefore, they committed their crime against the people and the homeland. However, the moves of those involved with Israel will not change Syria's stand, policy, and decision to help the Lebanese brothers reach national accord and a national solution and to maintain Lebanon's unity and independence.

The Lebanese people, who are concerned about the unity of their land, the coexistence of all their sons, and the entity of Lebanon and its pillars and continuation, can isolate and topple the conspiring cliques and their suspect schemes. They also can stress their concern about unity and coexistence and can turn the page of the abnormal situation from which Lebanon suffers.

## INA Reports 'Large-Scale' Arrest Campaign

*JN2609140288 Baghdad INA in English 1320 GMT 26 Sep 88*

[Text] Cairo, Sept. 26, INA—Syrian regime intelligence organs have unleashed a large-scale arrest campaign against a large number of civilians, military men, and Lebanese and Palestinians residing in Syria.

Syrians arriving (?here) from Damascus told INA correspondent that the arrest campaign came in the wake of an attempt on the life of 'Ali Haydar, commander of the special division and key element of the regime.

The Syrian citizens added that a large number of officiers some of them from Latakia and Tartus and several Air Force officers were among those arrested.

## AL-BA'TH Cited on 'Rejected Military Rule'

*JN2609062688 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 26 Sep 88*

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Rejected Military Rule," AL-BA'TH says: If the military rule trinity, which usurped power in B'abda Palace a few hours or rather a few minutes before the expiry of Al-Jumayyil's mandate, believes that it will remain, it is mistaken and its belief is groundless.

This rule is rejected in Lebanon, the Arab homeland, and the world, whether this trinity admits it or not. This rule is rejected in East Beirut before West Beirut due to the tyranny and hegemony imposed on Lebanon's sons in that part of the homeland.

This fact was reiterated by the terrorist practices against the deputies who represent the various social and political sectors before 18 August, when the factional minority managed to obstruct the session to elect a new president for the republic by detaining the deputies and preventing them from attending the election session.

AL-BA'TH adds: This rule is rejected in the Arab world because nobody accepts the partition scheme except those involved in it. The participants in this scheme from the ['Arafatist] deviant clique and from the Camp David regimes in Baghdad and Cairo have been working since the era of the kilied Al-Sadat in the service of this plot, which exhausted Lebanon and sank it into a painful ordeal.

AL-BA'TH says: This rule is rejected in the world because international laws and norms are in harmony with the laws, norms, and constitutions organizing the rules, that is unless these rules are usurped. What is happening in Lebanon now is an attempt to usurp the rule from the legitimate government which has been dealing with world governments since martyr Rashid Karami headed this government and Prime Minister al-Huss took over.

AL-BA'TH continues: This rejection that concurs with the popular rejection which prevailed throughout Lebanon when the so-called military or interim government was first announced, means rejection of the partition course supported by Israel and a clique of agents who want to establish cantons and petty states in harmony with the Zionist canton.

AL-BA'TH says: Therefore, there is no chance of life on the horizon for the military rule trinity. The legitimate government under Al-Huss is the only authority in Lebanon recognized by the Lebanese, the Arabs, and the world.

This government will derive its capability from the support of the nationalist forces in Lebanon and the world to defeat the partition scheme which the Zionist enemy is trying to implement in stages. The establishment of the military rule constituted the first step to implement this scheme.

## Afghanistan

### Wakil Backs Gorbachev's Krasnoyarsk Proposals

*LD2409220288 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 23 Sep 88*

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil on the USSR's new proposals concerning issues related to the Asia-Pacific area by unidentified BIA correspondent; date, place not given—read by announcer]

Question: Esteemed Minister of Foreign Affairs, I would like to know your opinion on the seven-point proposal of Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of CPSU, who stated them in Krasnoyarsk on the eve of the 43d session of the UN General Assembly.

Answer: The speech of Mikhail S. Gorbachev in Krasnoyarsk, which entails a complex of specific proposals, is in fact a further development of his speech which was delivered 2 years ago in Vladivostok. I would like to state with pleasure that the Vladivostok speech soon became a part of the foreign policy program of the Soviet Union; its results are tangible.

Who can stop the movement which led to the resolution of the situation around Afghanistan, the resolution of the Kampuchean problem, securing a cease-fire between Iran and Iraq, and eventually, a better atmosphere in the region? Indeed the proposals will give a new impetus to the already started movement.

These proposals create a situation wherein countries of the Asia and Pacific region should start a constructive dialogue. Balancing the legitimate interests of all countries and taking them into account, in the light of the new political thinking, is the pivot of the Soviet Union's new proposals to resolve the important issues in the Asia and Pacific region, the most populous area in the world.

The value and strength of these proposals are also evident in this. The extraordinary peace proposals for consolidating peace and securing the atmosphere of security are especially valuable.

The Republic of Afganistan, which still suffers from an undeclared war and foreign interference, knows well the worth and importance of Mikhail Gorbachev's proposals.

The Republic of Afghanistan, as an Asian country, catagorically supports the proposals of the Soviet Union and it is prepared to work actively for their implementation.

### Wakil Comments on UN General Assembly Session

*LD2409225388 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto dd 1530 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Text] 'Abdul Wakil, minister of foreign affairs and head of the Republic of Afghanistan's delegation, left Kabul this afternoon for New York to take part in 43d session of the UN General Assembly. He was seen off at Kabul Airport by Sulayman La'eq, minister of tribal affairs; deputy ministers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the head of the UN Development Program in Kabul, and the charge d'affaires of the USSR Embassy in Kabul.

Prior to his departure for New York, the minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan gave an interview to a Radio Afghanistan correspondent about his participation in the session of UN General Assembly:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Esteemed 'Abdul Wakil, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan. You are about to leave for New York to take part in the 43d session of the UN General Assembly.

How do you assess the prospects of discussions there in light of changes that have taken place in the international situation? Also, please comment on the participation of the delegation of the Republic of Afghanistan in this session.

[Wakil] Of course, this year as in previous years, the UN General Assembly session will discuss major, vital issues, issues relevant to the consolidation of international peace and security, socioeconomic development, and other crucial issues of our time.

The major characteristic of the session is that it will consider the qualitative changes which have taken place worldwide in the political arena; and these changes will be assessed in particular in view of the progress made in resolving regional issues, in which the UN has played a commendable role. This in turn will strengthen trust and faith in the United Nations.

Obviously, one of the most important events was the signing of Geneva accords on the political solution of the situation around Afghanistan. Of course, the signing of these accords will bring a positive atmosphere to the discussions at the UN General Assembly.

The report from the delegation of the Republic of Afghanistan attending the meeting of the foreign ministers of the member countries of the nonaligned movement in Nicosia reveals the fact that the nonaligned countries, which are also UN members, welcome and support the signing of the Geneva accords and their full implementation.

The signing of the accords was part of the final political statement of the nonaligned foreign ministers in Nicosia and approved unanimously. The accords played a principle role in that conference.

We have full confidence that if Pakistan, as one of the signatories to these accords, refrains from its anti-Afghan position at the 43d UN General Assembly session, we will be able to draft a resolution that will be approved unanimously.

Moreover, it will be capable of preventing violations of the Geneva accords. Such a resolution should build a good foundation for fulfilling and implementing the Geneva accords, and it should reflect the understanding in the Geneva accords on the formation of a broad-based government as a previously accepted base.

In this connection, the final political statement of the nonaligned foreign ministers meeting in Nicosia on southwest Asia, particularly on the Afghanistan issue, could be a good basis for the UN General Assembly resolution.

It should be noted that we always consider carefully the efforts by Mr Diego Cordovez, the special envoy of the UN secretary general and now foreign minister of Ecuador. This applies particularly to those views capable of being put in practice by taking into account our country's situation. Of course, they will be of interest to us.

It is worth mentioning that for us the most important issue is the commencement of a dialogue among the Afghans themselves, a dialogue without any preconditions and free from any type of external pressure. Such a dialogue will contribute to ensuring peace in our country.

To begin such a dialogue, to be able to deal with the so-called Alliance of Seven, the commander, opposition groups, influential personalities inside and outside the country; to open the way for the formation of a broad based government in which all the forces should have a valuable role. [sentence as received]

Such a dialogue could ensure peace in our country within a very short time period. We must clearly state that with such a policy our people could be free from all hostilities and clashes which have wearied our innocent people and which they hate.

Unfortunately, our suffering and pain have become unbearable with every passing day as a result of the flagrant violation of the Geneva accords by Pakistan. Our people have had enough.

During the 43d UN General Assembly we will draw the attention of the UN secretary general and UN members to these violations. We will ask them to put moral pressure on Pakistan and the United States so that any actions that jeopardize peace and security in our region are prevented.

Having lauded the UN role, we must inform the world about the difficulties that face the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan [UNGOMAP] in connection with the observation and implementation of the Geneva accords. UNGOMAP has not been able to assess correctly, up to now, even one of the memoranda that we submitted concerning Pakistani violations of the accords.

We declare once again that the defense capability of our country is directed only toward foiling the attacks of the armed extremists who fight against our people and who attack peaceful cities and localities with surface-to-surface missiles, mortars, and long-range artillary.

The Republic of Afghanistan favors strengthening relations with neighboring countries; it has never threatened those countries. It possesses no type of weapon other than those needed for its defense and will never seek to possess or to produce offensive weapons which threaten its neighbors. This fact is crystal clear to everyone.

Afghanistan strongly rejects any type of action that increases tension in its relations with its neighbors. Such actions will not be approved by us, whatever they might be.

Therefore, we clearly announce that we have never resorted to any small- and large-scale border violations, either by air or land. We have no reason to do this. No type of pressure, intimidation, or hostile propaganda or other conspiracies will force us to surrender because the Republic of Afghanistan wants to see the establishment of permanent international peace, particularly in this region.

Such actions would only delay the solution of the problems and complicate them. While we never want to use the UN for propaganda purposes, we will use this opportunity at the UN General Assembly to let the world officially know our position.

[Correspondent] Esteemed 'Abdul Wakil, foreign minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, thank you for your words. [end recording]

## Najibullah Wants International Refugee Commission

*BK2609053488 Hong Kong AFP in English 0524 GMT 26 Sep 88*

[Text] New Delhi, Sept 26 (AFP)—Afghanistan's President Najibullah wants an international commission with the participation of the United Nations to determine whether Afghan refugees are being prevented from returning home, he said in an interview published here Monday [26 September].

In the interview by Indian syndicated journalist Rajendra Sareen, Mr. Najibullah charged that refugees were "subjected to coercion even killing" to prevent them from returning to Afghanistan.

Some five million Afghans have fled the country for refugee camps, mostly in Pakistan and Iran over the past nine years since Soviet forces went into the country in support of the Kabul government. A peace agreement signed in Geneva in April which provided for the withdrawal of Soviet troops also provided for the refugees' return.

Reports from Pakistan, where some three million of the refugees are camped, say that most fear returning because of land mines.

"We want an international commission comprising Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran and India and with the participation of the U.N. to ascertain whether the refugees want to return or not," Mr. Najibullah was quoted as saying.

He also said that he saw "no basic change in Pakistan's position towards Afghanistan" since the death of Pakistan President Ziaul Haq in a plane crash August 17. However, he added without elaborating that there was a "slight shift in vebal claims and assertions of the present leadership."

The Afghan leader was quoted as maintaining his support for a broad-based coalition in Kabul, but ruling out a "neutral" government with the Armed Forces [as received] as impractical and leading to a situation like the one prevailing in Lebanon today.

### 'Strong' Protest Lodged With Pakistan Charge

*LD2409194888 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Text] A Foreign Ministry source reports that the charge d'affaires of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Kabul was today summoned to the Foreign Ministry, and the following points were made to him by the deputy head of the First Political Department:

The responsible authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan report that according to accurate information, the Pakistani authorities, in an attempt to prove their baseless and false claims that Afghan aircraft have been shot down, have asked the leaders of the Alliance of Seven to collect wreckage of aircraft shot down inside Afghan territory and to hand it over to the Pakistani authorities.

By displaying this wreckage, they would once again unleash a wave of propaganda against the Republic of Afghanistan. Thus far, the Pakistani authorities, despite repeated demands by UN observers and reporters, have failed to produce any trace of evidence to substantiate their claims. Pakistan is embarking on another attempt to mislead the world's public.

The Government of Afghanistan expresses its strong protest concerning this provocation and fabrication by the Pakistani authorities, and draws the attention of the Pakistani authorities to the provisions of the Geneva accords, to which Afghanistan and Pakistan have equal responsibility in their implementation. The consequences of such hostile actions rest with the Government of Pakistan.

### Pakistani Envoy Summoned Over Airspace Violation

*LD2509182188 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 25 Sep 88*

[Text] The Pakistani charge d'affaires in Kabul was summoned to the Foreign Ministry this afternoon where the following points were conveyed to him by the head of the First Political Section:

According to the information by the security authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan, on 23 September at 1200, two Pakistani jet aircraft entered the airspace of the Republic of Afghanistan via (Gangol), Konarha Province, and after 3 minutes left via (Gando Ghar), which is located in the (Maraway) District, Konarha Province.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan strongly protested this violation by the Pakistani Air Force to the Government of Pakistan. It calls on the concerned authorities of that country to avoid a repetition of such irresponsible actions, which will only serve to aggravate the situation. Otherwise, the responsibility for the consequences will rest with Pakistani authorities.

Regarding the Pakistani accusation that on 23 September a number of Afghan aircraft violated Pakistani airspace [words indistinct] Dir District in the region of Nawgai and dropped eight bombs killing or wounding a number of people, the head of the First Political Section told the Pakistani charge d'affaires that after a thorough investigation it was clear that this accusation was totally untrue.

As all these baseless accusations have only propaganda aims and are improper interference, the Republic of Pakistan, by resorting to such accusations, wants to cover up its aggressive actions and conceal its violations of the Geneva accords.

While the Republic of Afghanistan fully observes the Geneva accords, it rejects such baseless accusations. It calls on the authorities of that country not to undermine the efforts of the Afghan side to find a settlement to the situation around Afghanistan by resorting to such accusations. Otherwise, the responsibility for the consequences of such accusations will rest with the Pakistani authorities.

### Foreign Ministry Refutes Pakistani Allegations

*LD2509205388 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 25 Sep 88*

[Text] A Foreign Ministry spokesman refuted the Pakistani allegations that Afghan military planes had bombarded two villages after intruding into Pakistan's airspace on 23 September.

He said: This recent shameful Pakistani allegation is in line with the false propaganda plot which started on the eve of foreign ministers of the nonaligned countries' conference in Nicosia. Now that the UN General Assembly's session continues in New York the propaganda is being intensified.

Pakistan attempts to defend itself by false propaganda and tries to acquit itself of blatant violation of the Geneva agreements, trying to conceal its stubborn and irresponsible position on the repeated infringements of the Geneva agreements and to excuse its continuing interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs by distorting facts.

Pakistan's allegatations about the intrusion of Afghan military planes into that country's airspace are full of contradictions which increase with the passage of time.

The Republic of Afghanistan has repeatedly refuted these allegations and has suggested that an authoritative commission of representatives of the signatories to the Geneva agreements should be set up to investigate this type of allegation to ascertain the truth, and to set out the circumstances of the accusations so that these sorts of irresponsible acts, which are contrary to the Geneva agreements, can be prevented.

However, Pakistan does not want such public arbitration to clarify the truth for world public opinion and therefore, it pursues ill-intentioned, spiteful aims behind this systematic and planned propaganda.

Such Pakistani propaganda will have no result other than to make the situation more dangerous. This is a matter of concern for the Republic of Afghanistan and peace-loving forces of the world, particularly when the UN General Assembly sessions hope and expect positive results from the Geneva agreements to ensure peace and alleviate tension in the region.

### Blast at Army Base Kills 40, Wounds 200

*BK2609094888 Hong Kong AFP in English 0941 GMT 26 Sep 88*

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 26 (AFP)—A powerful explosion at an Afghan Army base has inflicted very heavy losses, resistance sources said here Monday.

More than 40 soldiers were killed and 200 wounded in the blast Friday at the Afghan Army's 11th Division base at Samarkhel, in eastern Nangarhar Province, a spokesman of the Hezb-e Eslami (Khalis faction) said, citing initial reports.

He said a time-bomb had been planted at the base by one of the group's contacts, which had set off a huge fire in the ammunition dump. Secondary explosions sent a hail of projectiles across the base, he added.

Several military barracks and troop quarters were also destroyed. The Samarkhel base is some 25 kilometres (15 miles) from the garrison town of Jalalabad.

### Rebel Commander Escapes Assassination Attempt

*BK2409140088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1316 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 24 (AFP)—An important Afghan rebel commander, Esma'il Khan, escaped assassination by Kabul government agents in an ambush Tuesday but his two bodyguards were killed, his Peshawar-based Jamiyat-e Eslami Party said Saturday.

Esma'il Khan, Jamiyat's main rebel commander in western Herat Province, is known for several major offensives in that area against the Soviet-backed government.

Earlier this year he refused a reported offer by Kabul to become prime minister in a coalition government under President Najibullah.

His party said he was travelling in a jeep from Ghorban to Ziyan in Herat Province when Afghan KHAD secret police agents, who had been tipped off about his movements, opened fire on his vehicle.

Two of his bodyguards were killed. In the ensuing shootout four KHAD agents were killed and 10 arrested, party sources said. Esma'il Khan, who has survived similar attacks in the past, was unharmed in the attack, they said.

Meanwhile the rebels captured Hazarjuft District in Helmand Province bordering the southern Nimruz region in a daylong battle the same day, resistance sources said.

They said the district was a main militia base which was used as a staging point against rebel movements to northern and western provinces.

The sources said some 30 militia men were killed in the fighting while many more fled the base. The mujahidin rebels captured a large quantity of arms and ammunition and food stores, they said.

### Tarin Kowt Citizens Kill 30 'Extremists'

*LD2309204588 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 23 Sep 88*

[Text] The inhabitants of Tarin Kowt city, the capital of Oruzgan Province, are courageously defending their city against barbarous attacks by criminal extremist groups.

BIA's military section correspondent reported this afternoon from Tarin Kowt city that a number of extremist groups firing heavy weapons have recently tried to disrupt peace and security and to plunder people's property around Tarin Kowt city.

For example, subversive extremist groups have bombarded Tarin Kowt city with over 15,000 rockets and mortar bombs from 29 August to 22 September, as a result of which 9 of our compatriots, including women, children, and elders, were martyred and another 16 persons were injured.

The report adds that after convening tribal jirgahs, Tarin Kowt's inhabitants recently decided that they will arm themselves and defend their homes against the extremists' barbarous attacks and thus discharge their patriotic role in restoring peace and calm in the country.

For example, as a result of retaliatory blows inflicted by the city's inhabitants, 30 of the plundering extremists, including their ringleaders, were killed and dozens of their weapons were destroyed.

### 5 Missiles Fired at Kabul City; 2 Injured

*LD2509164988 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 25 Sep 88*

[Text] This morning around 0700 extremist elements fired five surface-to-surface missiles at the residential areas of Kabul city. As a result two houses were damaged and two children were injured.

From the five missiles that were fired, one hit Badali's house in Taimani Wat and another one hit Besmallah's house in Parwan Mena and inflicted financial damage.

Also one missile hit Panjsher Wat street in the first part of Khykhana Mena and injured two children. Those injured were sent home after being bandaged.

### 'Arab Adviser' Killed in Qandahar Province

*LD2509173388 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 25 Sep 88*

[Text] An Arab adviser who had recently illegally entered Bazar-e Panjva'i District, Qandahar Province, in order to [word indistinct] the extremist elements for the continuation of the war, was killed on the night of 22 September by a ringleader of the Gulbuddin band, Haji Islam.

According to a report by a BAKHTAR military correspondent, he had brought with him 100,000 Pakistani rupees and a large number of dollars to distribute among the armed opposition groups in Qandahar Province.

Before he was able to distribute the sum among the armed oppositions groups he was sent by the ringleader of the Gulbuddin band, Haji Islam, from Bazar-e Panjva'i District to Arghandab District and killed him on the way.

The report adds that in accordance with the information received, the body of the adviser was later sent to Pakistan.

## Islamabad Notes Recent Mujahidin Operations

### Herat Under Seige

*BK2309164088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Sep 88*

[Text] According to reports received from Afghanistan, the mujahidin are continuing their siege of the country's third biggest city, Herat. After taking control of (Khasrud) subdivisional headquarters, the mujahidin are now strengthening their positions near Nimruz provincial headquarters, Zaranji.

They wiped out five military posts north of Ziranji town and seized a large quantity of arms and ammunition.

### Helicopter Downed in Ghazni

*BK2409024088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, the mujahidin launched several attacks on (Khar Sartak) and (Deh Lamid) posts in Konarha Province, inflicting heavy losses on the Kabul regime forces.

They also ambushed a military convoy on a highway leading to Samangan Province, killing several troops, and shot down a helicopter near (Rowza) village in Ghazni Province.

### Qandahar Airport 'Unusable'

*BK2509154888 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Sep 88*

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin have made the Qandahar Airport unusable in their continued operations near the airport and the Takhta Pul military post. The Kabul regime aircraft, coming from the Shindand Airport, bombed the areas now under the control of the mujahidin.

The fighting is continuing around Qandahar, and the mujahidin have advised the civilians of Qandahar to vacate the city to escape bloodshed. The Kabul regime is keeping the civilians from vacating the Qandahar city so that the mujahidin may not be able to attack the city.

According to another report, the civilians are fleeing the city under the darkness of night.

The mujahidin have also attacked a military post at (Barah Sahab) in Qandahar Province and shot down an aircraft in the area.

## Bangladesh

### 1 Killed, 100 Injured in Student Clashes

*BK2509062288 Hong Kong AFP in English 0512 GMT 25 Sep 88*

[Text] Dhaka, Sept 25 (AFP)—One student was killed and 100 were injured, 13 critically, in armed clashes between rival groups in northeastern Bangladesh, press reports here said Sunday [25 September].

The pro-government DAINIK BANGLA said student activists of the rightist Jamaat-I-Islami and the leftist Jatiya Samjtantrik Dal (JSD) fought pitched battles Saturday in Sylhet district town, 190 kilometers (120 miles) from here.

Police made 13 arrests in the clashes, which followed an alleged attack on a Jamaat-I-Islami member, the paper said.

There were contradictory accounts in the press of the death of student Jewel Ahmed, a JSD activist.

The Bengali daily ITTEFAQ, quoting a spokesman of the Jamaat-I-Islami student wing Shibir, said Mr. Ahmed fell from a roof while trying to escape a mob indiscriminately assaulting passers-by and was not involved in the clashes.

The DAINIK BANGLA newspaper, quoting local police, also claimed that Mr. Ahmed's death was not directly linked to Saturday's clashes.

But the NEW NATION paper quoted Sheikh Hasina Wajed, chief of the opposition Awami League, as saying that Mr. Ahmed was killed by "defeated forces of the liberation war", implicating Jamaat-I-Islami and Shibir activists.

Three educational institutions in Sylhet were closed for an indefinite period following the incident, reports said.

Local officials were not available for comment.

### Pakistani Emissary Meets President Ershad

*BK2109131688 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 21 Sep 88*

[Text] The special envoy of Pakistani president and federal minister of health, Mir Hazar Khan Bijrani, called on President Hussain Mohammad Ershad in Dhaka today.

The envoy handed over a letter of Pakistan President Ghulam Ishaq Khan to President Ershad. Mr Bijrani expressed his deep shock and sympathy at the sufferings of the people of Bangladesh due to the floods.

He informed President Ershad that besides government efforts, a large number of voluntary and nongovernment organizations in Pakistan have taken initiative to help the flood-affected people of Bangladesh.

The Bangladesh president thanked President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and the people of Pakistan for the sympathy shown by them to the distressed people of Bangladesh and for the assistance offered for the succor of the affected people.

President Ershad told the special envoy that a permanent solution to the flood problem is possible only through regional (?efforts) and with the cooperation of the countries in the area.

### Ershad To Pay State Visit to India 27 Sep

*BK2409145288 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 1430 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Text] President Ershad will go to New Delhi on a 1-day state visit to India next Tuesday [27 September].

The president will hold discussions with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on issues of mutual interest.

He will be accompanied by Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury and Education Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud.

The president will return to Dhaka the same day.

## India

### 'Bad Weather' Delays Gandhi Return From Bhutan

*BK2609124288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 26 Sep 88*

[Text] Mr Rajiv Gandhi, who went to Bhutan on a 3-day visit, will be returning to New Delhi tomorrow. Mr Gandhi's departure from Bhutan today was postponed due to bad weather.

### USSR's Yazov Arrives on 5-Day Official Visit

*BK2609090788 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 26 Sep 88*

[Text] The Soviet defense minister, Mr Dimitriy Yazov, arrived in New Delhi today on a 5-day official visit.

He was received at the airport by the defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant; the minister of state, Mr Chintamani Panigrahi; the three service chiefs and senior officials.

The Soviet minister is accompanied by a high level delegation.

The official level talks on defense cooperation will begin this afternoon. The Soviet leader will visit several defense establishments during his stay.

**Ershad Visit To 'Clear Misunderstandings'**
*BK2409132688 BBC World Service in English 1200 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[From the "Radio Newsreel" program]

[Text] The president of Bangladesh, General Ershad, is to pay a 1-day visit to Delhi on Tuesday. He will talk with the Indian prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi.

His visit follows Bangladesh's decision to send home Indian helicopters involved in flood relief work in Bangladesh and, as Mark Tully says from Delhi, it comes as something of a surprise.

[Begin recording] According to officials in Delhi, President Ershad himself asked to pay this 1-day visit. They say they do not know what prompted this surprise move.

Events connected with the floods in Bangladesh and the relief operation have caused tension between the two countries. The most recent event was the sudden request to India to recall its helicopters involved in the flood relief.

Four Indian Air Force helicopters were the first to arrive in Bangladesh in response to appeals for help with transporting relief supplies. India's prompt offer of help (?did) take the Bangladesh Government by surprise and there was some reluctance to accept the offer. But this was overcome at the highest level of the Bangladesh Government.

The Bangladesh Government has now said that it is having difficulty in looking after all the international helicopter crews who joined the relief operations and that is why it asked the Indian helicopters to go home.

There are currently five foreign helicopters in Bangladesh and more are expected including some from China. It is possible that the Bangladesh Government anticipated difficulties in having Chinese and Indian helicopters operating at the same time.

There has also been concern in Delhi about publicity in Bangladesh blaming India for the floods and about President Ershad's calls for a regional solution to the problem of harnessing the rivers which flow into his country.

India's position is that disputes over rivers are bilateral, not a regional or international concern.

President Ershad could well be coming to Delhi to clear misunderstandings over the helicopters and statements made in connection with the floods. [end recording]

**K.C. Pant Rejects Imposing Government on Kabul**
*BK2409091688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Text] The defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, has emphasized that it is important to recognize the Afghan people's right to determine their own future without intervention by other countries.

He said it will be a great mistake to foist a government on the people of Afghanistan in the name of any religious dogma.

Mr Pant warned against imposing a government in Kabul.

The defense minister was addressing an international seminar on the Geneva agreement on Afghanistan in New Delhi today.

He said India is maintaining contacts with all shades of Afghan opinion and also providing assistance for the relief and rehabilitation of Afghan refugees.

In his message to the seminar, the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, said India looks forward to the emergence of a united and nonaligned Afghanistan, free from foreign interference.

**Narasimha Rao Leaves To Attend 43d UN Session**
*BK2509081188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 25 Sep 88*

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, left for New York today to attend the 43d UN General Assembly session.

During his 2 weeks stay in New York, Mr Narasimha Rao will meet President Reagan and hold talks with foreign ministers of China, the United States, the Soviet Union, and Pakistan.

He will also have talks with the UN secretary general and the president of the UN General Assembly and attend the Group of 77 and NAM [Nonaligned Movement] ministerial meetings.

The General Assembly session is taking place at a crucial time when the world body is engaged in resolving major and regional conflicts, such as Iran-Iraq war, Afghanistan, Namibia, and Western Sahara.

**Linking UN Voting to Ties With U.S. Objected**
*BK2509082088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 25 Sep 88*

[Text] India has conveyed to the United States its objection to the linking of New Delhi's voting at the United Nations to Indo-U.S. relations.

The Indian ambassador in Washington, Mr P.K. Kaul, has said the linkage runs counter to New Delhi's non-aligned policy.

The U.S. State Department presents a report to the Congress every year on how a country has voted on key issues of American interests at the United Nations. These figures are then linked to bilateral ties.

### New Proposals on Siachen Discussed With Pakistan

*BK2309170088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1634 GMT 23 Sep 88*

[Text] New Delhi, Sept 23 (AFP)—Indian and Pakistani officials have made new proposals to resolve their long-running dispute over the strategic Siachen Glacier, press reports here said Friday.

The PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said it had learned from "informed sources" that a delay in the first round of talks Friday was linked to new proposals made by the leaders of both sides when they met informally on Thursday.

It said the proposals were designed to reach an agreement on "border alignments" along the line of actual control set during fighting in 1971 in Kashmir, where the 17,200-foot (5,400-metre) high glacier is located.

The agency did not give further details. Analysts said the line of control is very hazy in that area, leading the two sides to constantly fight about the border.

The visiting delegation met Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Defence Minister Krishna Chandra Pant shortly after arriving Thursday. No details were revealed by either side.

Indian officials said the two sides, led by Pakistani Defence Secretary Ijlal H. Zaidi and his Indian counterpart T.N. Seshan, met for more than four hours here Friday on the opening day of talks.

They decided to resume talks Saturday after meeting in two sessions on the opening day, the officials said.

These were the first talks between the two neighboring countries, who have fought three wars, since Pakistani President General Ziaul Haq died in an aircrash on August 17.

The officials said the first session at noon, which had been delayed, lasted for two hours and the second session some two and a half hours. They did not give further details.

The border forces of India and Pakistan, which fought two wars directly over Kashmir in 1947 and 1965, frequently exchange gunfire on the glacier.

A major gun battle in September 1987 left more than 100 dead, India said.

The third war in December 1971 led to the emergence of Bangladesh as an independent nation.

### Statement Issued on Talks

*BK2409134288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Text] The fourth round of talks between the defense secretaries of India and Pakistan concluded in New Delhi today.

In a joint press statement the two countries reiterated the commitment to work for a peaceful and negotiated settlement of the Siachen issue in accordance with the Simla agreement.

The two sides agreed that the next round of defense secretary level talks will be held in Islamabad early next year.

Responding to queries by newsmen, an official spokesman said the fact that the process of negotiations is to continue shows that some progress has been made.

He said the discussions were held in a frank and friendly atmosphere.

During the visit, the Pakistani delegation called on the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and the defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant.

At these meetings the Pakistani defense secretary, Mr Zaidi, conveyed Islamabad's desire to settle all matters through negotiations.

### Colombo's Political Initiatives 'Welcomed'

*BK2409032588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Text] India has welcomed the constructive steps initiated by President Jayewardene to further the political process in Sri Lanka's merged Northeast Province.

The Indian high commissioner to the island, Mr Dixit, conveyed this to the Sri Lankan president when he called on him in Colombo last evening after returning from New Delhi.

India has also sought from Sri Lanka the details of logistic arrangements for holding elections to the north-eastern provincial council as announced on Monday.

### Three Opposition Parties Forge Alliance

*BK2509161588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Sep 88*

[Text] In Pakistan, three political parties, including the Muslim League headed by a former prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, have agreed to forge an alliance for the coming general elections.

The other two parties are: Jamiat-I-Ulema-I-Pakistan headed by Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani and Tehrik-I-Istiqlal Party headed by the retired Air Marshal Asghar Khan.

The leaders of the three parties are to meet in the first week of next month to decide upon joint candidates and the election manifesto.

The chief of the National People's Party, Mr Mustafa Jatoi, is also negotiating with leaders of other parties for an electoral alliance.

General elections in Pakistan are scheduled to be held on the 16th of November this year.

**Worst Anti-Sikh Rampage Since Gandhi Death Noted**
*BK2409115488 Hong Kong AFP in English 1101 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[ Text] New Delhi, Sept 24 (AFP)—Hundreds of Sikh students have left a central Indian town in panic after Hindu fanatics set upon them a week ago in the worst display of anti-Sikh fervor since 1984, newspapers reported Saturday.

Six Sikhs died and more than 100 were injured in three days of violence that broke out at Bidar, in Karnataka State, September 14 over a fund collection for a Hindu festival march, THE TIMES OF INDIA and other newspapers said.

Five of the victims were students, four of whom were reportedly thrown into a well on the outskirts of the town after being killed.

THE TIMES said it was the worst anti-Sikh violence in the country since frenzied Hindu mobs went on a rampage after the October 31, 1984, assassination here of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi by her two Sikh bodyguards.

The killing sparked off nation-wide riots in which more than 2,700 Sikhs were officially said to have died throughout India, nearly 2,100 in the capital alone. Hundreds of others were injured.

Newspapers said Bidar policemen were either passive or sided with the rioters, believed to be fanatic Hindus forcibly collecting money from residents and students for a festival of Lord Ganesh, the elephant god.

Bidar, some 500 kilometres (312 miles) east of Bombay, has been revered by Sikhs since 1512 when it was visited by Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism. The community runs an engineering college and a polytechnic which have some 1,300 students on their rolls, most of them Sikhs.

Most of the students, THE TIMES and INDIAN EXPRESS said, were affluent and this had been a source of constant friction with the local residents, who were mostly poor. There had been minor clashes in the past between them.

Jagjit Singh Aurora, a Sikh MP [Member of Parliament], said here Saturday after visiting Bidar that almost all the estimated 1,000 Sikh students in the town had left for their homes in northern India despite assurances of safety by the police.

Karnataka is ruled by the opposition Janata (People's) Party.

"When we were in Bidar on the 20th (of September), about 700 of them had already gone," he told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE here. "The police were certainly passive during the violence. All the students said this.

"The looting (by the rioters) was extensive," Mr. Aurora said, confirming newspaper accounts that scores of Sikh homes and shops had been attacked, many burnt and destroyed, and almost all of them looted.

Hundreds of Sikh students escaped death by taking shelter in the college premises and a local Sikh shrine. Most of them had quarters in the town.

Mr. Aurora, a retired Army general from Punjab, quoted students as saying that some of the attackers were members of the pro-Hindu Bharatiya Janata (Indian People's) Party and the militant New Shiv Sena, or the Shiva's Army.

"There was also a gang which called itself 'Navy' and whose members did large-scale looting," said the MP from the Sikh Akali Dal Party, adding that the mob violence was put down only after police reinforcements arrived.

THE TIMES said more than 100 people, including some named by students, had been arrested. Police, it added, had recovered four truckloads of looted goods, including furniture, clothes, household items and television sets.

The Karnataka government has ordered a judicial enquiry into the riots.

Hindus and Sikhs have traditionally lived in harmony in India till the Sikh separatist campaign broke out in northern Punjab State five years ago and Sikh militants began killing, among others, Hindus in large numbers.

### BJP Councillor Killed; Red Alert Sounded

*BK2609074788 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 26 Sep 88*

[Text] The BJP councillor, Mr Balwant Singh Solanki, was shot dead this morning in Palam colony of South-West Delhi. A shopkeeper, Mr Durga Prasad, was critically injured in the shoot-out.

The two killers have been identified and police sources attribute the murder to an old land dispute.

A spokesman of the Delhi police categorically denied any terrorist involvement in the incident. However, a red alert has been sounded in the capital and investigations are on.

## Iran

### Khomeyni Message Read in Cemetery Tribute

*LD2309180488 Tehran IRNA in English 1754 GMT 23 Sep 88*

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 23, IRNA—Imam Khomeyni the leader of the Islamic Revolution Friday said further special importance should be now attached to military preparedness. Enemies of God and people have ambushed to destroy all divine things, he added.

The imam said the above in a message on the occasion of the second day of "Sacred Defense Week" (Sept. 22-28), the day which is named "Day of Martyrs, Wounded, POW's, Those Missing in Action and All Those Who Participated in Defending Islamic Iran."

Imam Khomeyni also said in his message read in Behesht-e Zahra cemetery that the wounded are guiding lamps who show the path to the prosperity in the other world to Muslims.

Relatives of martyrs, POW's, wounded, those missing in action, a group of Armed Forces personnel and people from all walks of life gathered in Behesht-e Zahra cemetery early Friday to pay tribute to those martyred in defending Islam. Helicopters flying in low altitude dropped flowers on the martyrs' graves.

### Further on Khomeyni Message

*LD2409174488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Text] Yesterday, the 2d day of Holy Defense Week and the day for honoring self-sacrificing fighters, a ceremony was held for the families of martyrs at Behest-e Zahra cemetery. The following message from the imam of the ummah was read to its participants:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. O God, You are everything, and everything is nothing without You. O God, You are dear, and everyone is miserable without You. O God, You are wealthy, and all but You are poor.

This year's Holy Defense Week has a different atmosphere. After years of holy defense, God's religion has taken on a new shape. Preparedness for war has become more vital, and the enemies of God and God's creations are constantly alert. They lie in ambush to destroy all that is godly.

Throughout history, the families of martyrs, those lantern-bearers of the way of the prophets, have taken up the task of lighting God's paths. The wounded and the maimed have themselves become a guiding light, showing the way to prosperity and eternity to all believers in every corner of this land—the way to reach God of Mecca.

Those enslaved in the hands of the executioners are songs of freedom, which the world's free men sing. The dear missing-in-action form the coastline of God's endless sea, and the inherent poor of the lower forms of life envy them for their lofty position.

One can say nothing of the martyrs. The martyrs are the candles at the gathering of friends. With their boisterous laughter and exhiliration, they are protected by God, their afterlife is certain. God says to them: Worship Me and enter My heaven. The subject here is love, and the pen is hurrying to describe it. Peace be upon you.

[Signed] Ruhollah al-Musavi al-Khomeyni

### Majlis Speaker Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

*LD2309174588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1230 GMT 23 Sep 88*

[Friday prayers sermons delivered by Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Tehran University on 23 September—recorded]

[Excerpts] There are two or three important occasions this week which I will refer to. However, the most important occasion is Holy Defense week. I will give a brief and comprehensive assessment of the war and 8 years of our defensive actions. [passage omitted]

We must earmark more capital for education and universities. Our teachers must not be among the most deprived and the most downtrodden strata of the toilers of society. Our schools must not be in need of things which are not at their disposal. Worse, our children must not be willing to go to school, and yet find no school to go to. We have these shortcomings in our society today—we have inherited this situation. Unfortunately, during

the revolution, the war did not allow us to attend to this important sector. On the contrary, we have had to place a great deal of educational resources and teachers at the disposal of the war.

They were volunteers. After the war—if it comes to an end—we must make amends. The private sector—the people—must pay greater value on this. Construction of school buildings, providing what is in short supply in schools, helping poor students, and attending to schools in rural areas and deprived places, are all duties of Muslims. Next to jihad for God—our top priority—we have no other work that is more important than improving the educational sector.

We have a regional problem—the problem of Lebanon. During the past 2 days or so, Lebanon is again facied with a crisis. Yesterday, an event took place which we believe is a conspiracy to disrupt the Shiah society—the most progressive and revolutionary society in Lebanon today. Several Amal leaders were assassinated in the streets.

It is obvious the aim is to create enmity among Shiahs, between the Amal and Hizballah. We hope that the responsible Hizballah and Amal officials are well aware of this and that they will nip the conspiracy in the bud. We hope they will not allow more blood to be shed because of this event.

There is also the issue of the Lebanese president. It is a strange issue. We do not understand those who regard themselves as leaders of world democracy and always claim to be defenders of world democracy—then in Lebanon they act undemocratically. Indeed, this puzzle remains unsolved for us.

The United States breaks off relations with such-and-such country on the pretext that there is no democracy, and that the people lack freedom. Freedom—in the view of Westerners—is governed by a numerical majority. They do not follow anything else.

Why, in the United States, should the votes of the majority decide the government—likewise in France, England, Germany, and all other places? Why must this not apply to Lebanon? Western arrogance has never answered this question.

According to an old Lebanese tradition it is said that the president must be a Christian, the prime minister must be a Sunni, and the parliament speaker must be a Shiah. They say that this must continue, no matter who gains the majority. Why do they not accept that elections held in Lebanon and that the one who is elected by the majority be the president? Why in Lebanon is the president not free to elect his cabinet? Like France. Is the sky in Lebanon different from that in the United States? Are the people in Lebanon different from those in the West? Why do they inflict such injustice on the people of Lebanon? Why do they not allow the fate of the people in Lebanon to be decided by the majority? Why do they inflict such crises on Lebanon?

We know why. We understand it. But they have no reply. They know that the Muslims are a majority in Lebanon, and if they refer to the majority, then all parts of the government will be controlled by the Muslims. This is what they do not want. They want the Phalangists and Maronites to have control. They follow this line.

Claimants to human rights and democracy impose an obvious injustice on the people of Lebanon. This is at the root of so much bloodshed there, and they are responsible for the bloodshed. The assistant secretary of state flies from the United States to Lebanon to pressure the victimized people of that country to choose his choice as president. Of course, the people of Lebanon are well aware of this and will not accept it. They are trying to achieve their rights, albeit at a price.

Holy Defense week and my assessment of the war: There are many things to say, but I will confine myself to the esentials, even though some of it may be repetitive. Take a look at this war and look at it justly. We should not look at it with a biased view, describing it the way we want. The realities, which are also accepted by the world and cannot be denied by anyone, form the axis of the criterion of our judgment.

I present my view according to this. The extent of my reviews and knowledge of the wars of the past century have shown that life during our war with Iraq was not the same as in others: the first world war, the second world war, regional wars, such as Vietnam, Korea, Israel and the Arab world, or others we have seen. Nowhere did all satanic powers concentrate on one side, and one country stand alone on the other. [passage omitted]

The first bloody and comprehensive war we witnessed in our contemporary history was this war, in which a country was on its own. Even though there were countries with which we had ties, they did not act as our supporters. They continued routine barter transactions, like any other matter, and most of them, had the same ties with Iraq.

On one side a country on its own, which has gone through a revolution, which has been solely dependent on the people; and on the other, all the satanic powers. And I mean all of them—of course it was not all the capabilities of the United States and the USSR, but that is because Iraq's capacity was limited. Witn this force with which they wanted to fight us, Iraq could take from the resources of these satans as much as it had the capacity to hold, and fight us with it.

There was the United States and its servants. As you see from all these discussions, all the credits given to Iraq by the United States are now being revealed. Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Jordan, and Egypt were in fact following U.S. orders rather than their own inclinations. The financial capabilities of the region are indeed vast. Of all the wealth in the world, the financial reserves in the world, that is, the hard currency reserves, do not match those of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. All this was at the disposal of the war against us.

Regarding the world's news: the level of news is very high, as satellites—the most intruding eyes of the world—are spying over the whole world. These were also at the disposal of our enemy. They would give any weapon which was within Iraq's capacity to use. The Mig 29—which the USSR gave to the Iraqis—is just beginning to be used in the world. They are among the most advanced aircraft in the world.

The (Nozari) bombs they recently gave to Iraq, are strategic weapons that can be supplied to no one except their most intimate allies. Long-range missiles—banned in the Middle east because of the existing problems in the Middle East—missiles with ranges of 500-600 km were placed at the disposal of a country at war.

So much money has entered Iraq, yet the leeches of the world are not willing to part with even $1. Now they officially confess that Iraq now has debts of over $65 billion. Why did they risk giving so much money to a country while they were aware of the daily threat of its downfall and the danger surrounding it? Why did they give it so much money?

There were no limits to the war ammunition given to Iraq: the chemical weapons which they placed at Iraq's disposal. Iraq itself did not possess chemical weapons. These are exclusive weapons. Do you notice how the world is now panicking on seeing how the spell has been broken—the chemical weapons issue has become known to others. They gave Iraq the most dangerous weapons, the most financial assistance, and provided the most information.

There was the satan of the West; the satan of the East; the satan of the reactionary forces; the satan of the Zionists; and also our own internal counterrevolutionaries, those who knew that by participating in this war their roots in the country would be burned forever, since encountering a united nation would lead them to self-destruction. Whether they were left-wing, right-wing, imperialists, hypocrites, nationalists, even liberals—they all gathered. [passage omitted]

If the Vietnamese were not supported by the Soviet Union they would have been crushed in a short time. If Israel did not enjoy the support of the West, it would not even be in existence. Even if the Arabs did not have some major power behind them, they would have been destroyed by Israel and others. The only instance of such an unequal battle being waged is this one, which has not been seen by the world, and the world will admit it. [passage omitted]

Now as the war is ending, see what a fuss the United States has made about chemical bombings in northern Iraq. See what a noise it is making, as though this has just happened for the first time. Did not Iraq turn Halabjah into a hell 5 or 6 months ago? Did not Iraq kill 5 or 6,000 people there with the same chemical weapons? Was not the Qareh Dagh region totally destroyed 2 months earlier by Iraq with chemical weapons? Did not Iraq make all the people of the central area in [word indistinct], north of Al-Sulaymaniyah, flee because of chemical bombs, either killing them there or making them flee to Iran? At that time the Americans said nothing.

How much did we protest, asking the world, the United States and the Soviet Union to come and see the chemical bombs! Our hospitals were filled with people who had been torn apart by chemical weapons and by poison bombs. We invited them to come and see. Their reporters used to come; they saw it all, they made films and left, but all their films were lost to history.

Today however, the Americans are searching all the mountains in Turkey to find proof of chemical weapons to raise this issue in the world. What does this mean? Their problem was the issue of the Islamic Revolution. Their problem was the issue of Islam. They all closed their eyes to the war crimes: the use of chemical weapons and the bombing of cities.

How many years have the Iraqis been bombing and flattening cities? How many villages have they destroyed? How many cities have they destroyed? How many mosques, museums, and schools have they destroyed. They witnessed all those crimes. These are not crimes which mankind can tolerate today. Yet they completely closed their eyes to those crimes.

The Algerian foreign affairs minister was on his way here for discussions. The Iraqis attacked his aircraft, brought it down and martyred him. Even the Algerians kept quiet and did not say a word. See how fanatical they can be and how frightened they are of the Islamic Revolution, that the Iraqis attacked and killed a well-meaning person who was coming to do something to stop the war, and yet no one says anything!

The Americans themselves came and shot down our Airbus and mercilessly martyred 290 people in the air and on the seabed; yet the American, British and French media said very little, just the minimum. But did they say as much as they are saying today? Why did they not say anything? They trampled on all principles, all the principles which should be respected during war: cities

should not be attacked, chemical weapons should not be used, civilian airliners should not be threatened, and civilians should not be harmed. All these principles were ignored.

We were fighting under conditions when news media imperialism was completely at the service of our enemy. [passage omitted] The other day we announced our losses, 133,000 martyrs. At the time during the war they told many lies in order to boost Iraq's morale and weaken our morale. They repeated any figures which Iraq announced. Iraq suffered a defeat, and in order to cover up its defeat it claimed that the Iranians had suffered 40 or 50,000 casualties. The Western media recorded those figures. Now when they add them up, they see that the figure exceeds 1 million. Now when we announce the correct figure they again say that we have minimized the figures. [passage omitted]

The West, the East, reactionaries, Zionists, imperialists, counterrevolutionaries, whether from the left or right, hypocrites, liberals were all on the other side. On this side was a nation which, in reality, was facing international censorship and boycott. We even had difficulty purchasing wheat while the wheat stores of the world were overflowing. It was even thrown into the sea. We had difficulty in purchasing meat, which was also thrown into the sea so that farmers may be protected. It was the same with other goods.

At the beginning of the war we had a totally dependent military system. The United States had kept our Armed Forces in ignorance, so that even the officers who remained, although a large number of them had left, did not know what the Armed Forces possessed. Even 2 years after the war had started we kept discovering stores of antiaircraft defense systems, spare parts, armored personnel carriers, other strange things. We kept discovering these items, even in recent years. It means that even our storage system was in their hands, as was the support system, spares, and the techniques which were required.

When the advisers departed they left us to administer the Armed Forces with advanced weapons which they believed no one but the Americans could make use of. At the beginning of the revolution, some people in the Revolutionary Council said that we should sell our F-14's. Their reasoning was that we could not maintain them. The reasoning used by the liberals in the Revolutionary Council was that we had to sell them because we could not use those aircraft, we could not even fly them, we could not even use their missiles. The Revolutionary Council sent me as an envoy to Esfahan, where I went to the base, collected the pilots together, and asked them if they could fly those aircraft. They said they could. All our capabilities were unknown.

That was the situation: Even when we possessed the capability, it was very difficult to exploit it. We had a great helicopter fleet, we had a powerful Air Force. However, the United States had made sure that we could not make use of them. Our country possessed a considerable antiaircraft system, but no manpower had been trained to use it. None of the radar had been set up, yet it could have acted as our eyes. A country in such a situation, and with those capabilities, stood on its own feet and fought for 8 years, and in this period it taught them all a lesson. [passage omitted]

We learned a great deal during the war. We gained a great deal of knowledge, we learned many techniques, we gained experience in weaponry and we learned which weapons have what effect these days. This technical capability has been used by our military industries and as a result, we have the capability today in our country to manufacture the most important and the most essential weapons of the world: missiles. Missiles are the most important weapon today and we have resolved the most important problems affecting the missile industry. What concerns us now is what to manufacture, how many, and how to manufacture them. The issue now is not whether or not we can make them.

We have solved the main problem regarding the manufacture of aircraft, helicopters, submarines, ships, and weapons. The main problems of the chemical industries, both defensive and offensive, have been completely solved by our experts. The manufacture of the highest quality ammunition and also ammunition of different types has been solved by us. The manufacture of spare parts, the their identification, all different weapons and all the equipment which the military forces require, all now exist in this country—the result of the experiences we gained during those 8 years.

From the viewpoint of training, millions of people in this country today are capable of fighting, a capability which has been tried on the battlefields, not something which they have learned in garrisons, a capability which has been tried. They have learned to use science and technology; both the military officers, the NCO's, the IRGC, the mobilization forces and even ordinary people in government offices. [passage omitted]

Now let us imagine that we are at the beginning of the revolution. Of course, I do not know whether or not the war has ended. If it has not yet come to an end, then the new policy which we have chosen under the guidance of the imam will strengthen our hand in the war. It will put the enemy in a worse position. Anyway, I will not delve into this point because we would seriously like to have peace.

Now, should peace prevail, then what has the enemy gained? Let us presume that we are at the beginning of the revolution; the only thing which they can say they have gained is this: They may say they have delayed the constructive period of the Revolution by 7 to 8 years. If we place what we have gained through the war against this damage, then our gains are more than our losses. If

we were to behave as we did before the war, then we would have remained forever the consumers of other nations' weapons; we would have remained dependent forever.

The strength and management which society gradually attained during the war period, the culture and the new generation coming from the war and the battlefields—coupled with the resources of this country which, unlike Japan or Germany, has a great deal of mineral, human and cultural resources which all combined can rank as the resaources of a continent and then added to these are the culture and the people and the leadership—will enable us to know how to begin our constructive work even though we have had to begin the process 8 years later.

At the beginning of the revolution we, perhaps, did not know to build ourselves up. That was because those of us who were responsible for running the country had just come out of schools, or from prisons.

But now we have 8 years, 10 years, experience of running a country, experiences gained through the most difficult encounters, with the world's satans.

The country's resources remain intact. Our oil is in the ground, our minerals are there, our specialized forces are adequate. We have contractors and others who are capable of handling major projects. They can manufacture anything, from bullets for a Colt, to engines for an F-14. They can manufacture anything from a bicycle to an aircraft, from a house to a dam. [passage omitted]

A nation like ours is now able to enter the era of construction with such capabilities. Our enemies are now forced to admit to facts which 10 years ago they would not admit. What have our enemies achieved? The White House, out of necessity, today says that it accepts the reality of the Islamic Revolution. It had a wrong perception, but now its perception has possibly changed. It used to think that the Islamic Revolution intended to export itself through conquest.

This frightened our neighbors. Our neighbors, Kuwait and other states, have come to understand that under the worst of conditions, when they resorted to very ugly moves, we respected the sanctity of our neighbors, that we could have destroyed them, bur we did not do so. Now they know that if we claim to export our revolution we intend to present to the world the thought, the idea, and the path of the Koran. After 8 years of war we stand more steadfast, more determined, and with more experience concerning our ideals and aspirations pertaining to the revolution. [shouts of approval]

Our enemies fed the people of the world with the idea that a group of ignorant, adventurist terrorists were thinking of disrupting peace in the region. However, today the world realizes that there is an innocent, resistant, and steadfast nation here that is prepared to forgo everything for its ideals. A nation that is not destroyed by such hurricanes and does not lose its path is now before the world.

Therefore, in our brief evaluation of the war period, we conclude that we succeeded in crushing the deepest, most dangerous, and most inauspicious plots. We proved that Islam as a way of life and as the guide for society in the space age, and in more progressive ages, can function. We proved that we are the harbinger of Islam and the followers of the path that came to humanity as a gift from heaven, through Gabriel, into the heart of the holy at holy Mecca. We thus offer this path to other societies. [passage omitted]

## Reportage on Majlis Speaker's Visit to Qom

### Addresses Graduate Instructors

*LD2409145288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Text] Hashemi-Rafsanjani, acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces, arrived in Qom today and made a speech to graduates of the preliminary course of the Advanced Training Center of the Guards Corps [ATCGC] about the tasks of this center. Our correspondent reports:

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces and speaker of the Islamic Consulative Assembly, arrived in Qom, the city of blood and revolt, this morning and participated in the graduation ceremony of the preliminary course of the ATCGC. This center was commissioned in 1362 [corresponding to the year beginning 22 March 1983] by Martyr Mahallati, the imam's previous representative in the Corps. It is responsible for training the IRGC's ideological instructors throughout the Corps.

In his speech to the graduates, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces said: We should follow up this work in earnest. Our Armed Forces need to be taken through comprehensive Islamic training before all else.

The Majlis speaker called for the adoption of a unified method for the ideological training of the Armed Forces. He said this would result in the establishment of an armed force possessing all of the necessary qualifications. He said: We will always lose if we separate scripture from the views of society.

The Majlis speaker, who was speaking at the ATCGC in Qom, called for the constant preservation of links by this center with the practical issues of the Armed Forces, and the development and advancement of its training level.

### Voices Uncertainty on War

*LD2409215888 Tehran IRNA in English 1649 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 24, IRNA—Acting commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Saturday said "It is still not fully clear for me, as a person familiar with war issues, fronts and negotiations whether or not the Iraqi war has ended."

The Islamic Republic desires post-war reconstruction, yet there is still no stabilized state, he added.

Speaking to a gathering of workers' councils, the military supremo said Iranian people fought single-handedly in the most difficult conditions without giving in to blackmailing or depending on others, and at the same time preserving their ideals and mottos.

The Iranian Muslims defended the revolution and country and frightened away their enemy, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said adding "this is a fact witnessed by history."

On the self-sufficiency achieved by military industries, Hoj. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said Iranian forces have had access to the intricacies of the world's most sophisticated armour. In the past, he recalled U.S. military advisors had monopolized the handling of all such weapons "not even letting us unscrew an insignificant nut of a missile."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani who is also the Majlis (parliament) speaker said before nobody would have imagined Iran could repair an aircraft, but now he noted, planes such as the F-14 whose repair is considered the zenith of military industry are being repaired by Iranian technicians.

Turning to the oil industry, he said it was so complicated that no one gave Iran a chance of managing it so well. Today, Iranian experts have shown their skill in capping oil wells, extinguishing oil well fires and re-exploiting them, he noted.

On Iran's relations with other countries, the speaker said "you cannot find a country in the world which says it can exist by itself all alone."

In fact what one needs in today's world is exchange of culture, work force and information, he said adding that advanced countries need Third World countries and "we need them too in some cases." If ties are maintained in a healthy spirit and in safe hands "I see no danger."

"We should work in the world as a culture and a civilization and not like a market or agent for the policies of Eastern and Western blocs."

### Meets With Montazeri

*LD2409142788 Tehran IRNA in English 1309 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Text] Qom, Central Prov., Sept. 24, IRNA—Acting commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces and Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani met with future leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri here today. Discussed in the meeting was current issues of the country.

### Addresses Clergymen, Students

*NC2509075388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 25 Sep 88*

[Text] We now bring you remarks by Acting Commander in Chief Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at ceremonies to pay tribute to martyred clergymen at the Madreseh-ye Feyziyeh in Qom.

At these ceremonies, which were attended by the chief of the Assembly of Experts, members of the directorate and seminarians of Qom, some officials of the Islamic Propaganda Office, scholars, students, local officials, and people from various sections of society, the acting commander in chief explained the current situation in the country and stressed the need for the active presence of the people and clergy on all occasions.

He said: The present situation is one of neither peace nor war. It is correct to say that peace has not come about, but according to our leadership we are seriously striving for it. We will not be the initiators of war unless forced to do so. The acting commander in chief referred to Iraq's fabrication of excuses in the course of the peace talks and said: Those who are the real instigators of war are not happy with our move, as reality has forced them to accept the truth of the Iranian revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran. This does not mean they will relinquish their animosity toward an Islamic revolution, which is a new concept in human relations.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani then alluded to miscellaneous plots of the enemies of the revolution, declaring: It would be foolish to imagine that our enemies have renounced their hostility and will be cordial toward us. The speaker of the Islamic Majlis continued his remarks with tributes to the self-sacrificing heroism of the clergy in the course of the imposed war. He said: The clerics were the vanguards of the revolution in all fields, in addition to the war, and had prime responsibility. To date more than 98,000 of these dear ones have been dispatched to the fronts, and they should continue to maintain their presence there and encourage the presence of others at the fronts.

He emphasized that the present juncture is a fateful one for the nation and our revolution, and we should not understimate its importance. Seminarians and clerics

should formulate plans and programs so that the dispatch of these soldiers of the Lord of the Ages should not be halted. As long as our situation remains unchanged we should maintain our readiness in the best possible manner, he stated.

The acting commander in chief added: We are hopeful that we will attain peace and an end to the war. If this issue is resolved we will enter a stage which will require an extensive role by the clergy. Regarding reconstruction and the clergy's role, he said: Reconstruction means rebuilding the country in all aspects, and we will require the guidance of the clergy in cultural, economic, agricultural, industrial, and military fields, in all matters. The clergy should not think they have nothing to do in the meantime. On the contrary, their responsibility has become relatively greater.

Referring to the clergy's attention to the issues of Islamic jurisprudence concerning the present (?demands) of society, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Jurisprudence at the Madreseh-ye Feyzieh, which has not had any connection with executive matters, is being pursued. To forge our society now we need jurisprudence suited to the present time and needs. This does not mean that realities of Islam should be ignored. We now face numerous problems pertaining to geographical, sea, and air boundaries, which the clergy should answer. In view of the conditions and demands of society, once again jurisprudence should be studied.

## Further on Qom Speech

*LD2509193888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0932 GMT 25 Sep 88*

[Speech by Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces and Majlis speaker, at a 24 September meeting of clergymen and inhabitants of Qom—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [Koranic verse omitted] God has blessed us with the good fortune of the opportunity to be present here to visit our old brothers and friends, and also our colleagues and comrades-in-arms, and to talk with you, dear brothers. This will be done under the shadow of the holy blood of great clergymen who contributed to the revolution through the blessings of their self-sacrifice. [passage omitted]

The issue I shall be discussing today will concern mainly the clergy, our responsibilities and duties and the circumstances in which we now find ourselves. No doubt it is believed that to talk about any other subject in the Feyziyeh Seminary, in this place of knowledge and jihad, and the chief (?bastion) of the revolution, is inappropriate. I shall talk a little about our own situation and those things that we as officials of the country, expect from the clergymen, now and in the future. I shall also explain these. We have also described the current situation of the country in the mass media; I shall repeat this here as a brief introduction.

We are now in a state of neither peace nor war. It is true that peace has not yet been established and that we are still at war, but we are seriously seeking peace, from the standpoint of the leader and the officials of the country, and we want to arrive at peace. We will not be the one to resume war; while we have not yet arrived at peace, we are in no way willing to start the war again unless they force us to enter the war to defend ourselves as in the past. [passage omitted]

We must maintain our vigilance in any case and as we have not attained peace yet, I must mention to you, dear friends, that the clergy, who have always been in the vanguard of the revolution, who have provided the essence of the revolution, and who have taken upon itself the highest responsibility in the war and most other tasks should now preserve its presence on the battlefronts and behind them, just asin time of war.

That is, we should not think that because the academic year is beginning and the issue concerning the seminarians is now the issue of peace that they should cut their links with the fronts. If this were to happen, it would have repercussions in every section of the population. The mobilization forces will know, whether you are in Qom or in your own province or village, if you go to the fronts; the news of it will reach everywhere. And if you do not go, this too will be known to everyone.

Therefore, if we are on the fronts, if we are present there—even if there are no clashes there—if we are in the bases, in outposts, and bunkers, and generally travelling back and forth, then your presence will satisfy the needs of the fronts. You should preserve your extensive presence on the fronts just as you did in the past. You should not think you are wasting your time or there is not much work to be done there.

Maintaining our presence on the fronts and the current tasks is of itself a great task and can be counted as a deterrant. However, if our enemies feel that we have cut ourselves off from the fronts and that the fronts have become cold [as heard], then they will be encouraged to commit mischief and at the very least they may want concessions from us. [passage omitted]

We should thus preserve our preparedness while we are in this situation of neither peace nor war. Of course, we might attain a situation of peace and then we shall be entering a new era. If something like this were to come about—and this is quite likely—then we shall face a new situation. Then the role of the clergy will again become more conspicuous. We have called this stage the stage of reconstruction. [passage omitted]

The clergy must participate and be present with all its being in this reconstruction phase, with its intellect, action, and involvement. It should perform the tasks that fundamentally belong to it: the reconstruction and chief management of the revolution. Therefore, it must be serious about its presence in this phase and also to voluntarily and responsibly enter the arena.

Fortunately, as far as we know, the clergy has under every circumstance behaved this way and performed its role well in this respect. [passage omitted]

The clergy has performed very well its role as director, as conductor of the social movement and as the vanguard for administrating the affairs of the country, at every juncture, up to the time of the war. The presence of the clergy in this war, we had not been trained and brought up for war; we did not learn about military procedure in our schools or afterward. [sentence as heard] Our tasks and our clothes show that we were not ready for war. However, the participation of the clergy in the war and its presence in the war has been truly amazing and worthy of praise.

The statistics we have of martyred clergymen, the wounded, missing, and crippled clergymen, are eloquent evidence of the pioneering spirit, sincerity, and sympathy with the people that is felt by the clergy. Unfortunately, when the statistics on the number of those martyred were broadcast by the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic, they did not give out the statistics concerning the clergy. This is another sign of the devotion of the clergy, who do not want to boast.

The clergy demonstrated this fact by its presence. I shall now tell you about these figures in your presence but perhaps you know them already as many of you have been to the fronts. The statistics I have with regard to the clergy in the war are the following: Ninety-six thousand clergymen were dispatched to and served at the fronts. We should compare this with the total number of forces that went to the fronts and see what percentage it comprises, Because I do not know the total figure, I cannot compare. I do not know the number of nonclerical persons who were on the fronts, I do not know this.

Two thousand six hundred fifty clergymen were identified as martyrs whose martyrdom certificates are now in our hands. This is a very high figure. The total figure for our martyrs is 133,000. Out of these, 123,000 were martyred at the fronts and about 10 or 11,000 of them were martyred in the bombings and missile attacks on urban areas by the enemy. This figure shows that two percent of the total number of martyrs were made up of clergymen; that is, for every hundred persons who were martyred at the fronts, two were clergymen. Now, if we were to compare this with society at large, are there two clergymen to every hundred persons? Certainly not.

A village that may have a population of about 1,000 usually has only one clergyman or none at all. A town with a population of 100,000 does not have 2,000 clergymen; it does not even have 500 or 20 clergymen. The comparison of the number of clergymen with the number of the population as a whole shows that we have given two percent of the clergymen as martyrs, although war is not the first duty of the clergy. We have an Army, the IRGC, troops, and all those who come to the fronts. Well, it is their job—going to the fronts—for many of them. They have to be at the fronts.

However, the clergy have gone there voluntarily. Out of these volunteers, two percent of the martyrs are clergymen. The same applies to MIA's. We have approximately 60,000 MIA's; we do not know of course, we hope to God that many of these may be POW's and return to our country. Out of these, 295 of them are clergymen. Here, too, the ratio is the same; that is, two percent of MIA's are clergymen. We also have 70,544 disabled and injured. I do not have the figures for the disabled and the injured; the ratio is probably applicable here too.

This demonstrates clearly that the clergy's participation in the arena of war, in comparative terms, was numerically much higher than its numbers. And of course it should have been so. We are the vanguard. We have also had our share of assasinations. We have a clergyman prime minister who became a martyr; the chief of the State Supreme Court was martyred; our president is among the disabled, one of his hands is not normal. [passage omitted]

Thus, the clergy has performed its duty as vanguard and it should be the same in the future, in the period of reconstruction. If we are to build the model of an Islamic society, the seminaries must put in the effort. It is time for the ulema, the religious teachers, and the researchers to see to the fundamental problems of society. One of the major tasks in this respect is the reconstruction of the cultural, social, and intellectual foundations of this society. We still have a lot of unanswered questions with regards to society.

We still have not been able to clarify for people economic problems as befits Islam: We have differences of opinion among ourselves over these issues. We have not come forward with clear theses for our foreign policy. We have not evolved any new policies regarding social and cultural issues, minorities, and debatable religious matters [mostah ab], which differ vastly from the early era of Islam to today, when we live under new conditions. Thus we see that every day we are asked questions about new issues. One day they ask about musical instruments; another day religious issues are put forward with new interpretations. [passage omitted]

In an interdependent world Islam will be the loser if one does not participate in the Olympics because of its adverse psychological impact; if you are not a part of the United Nations; if we are not present in every international arena today. [passage omitted]

We are now in the process of reconstruction. We are inevitably faced with new conditions: There is the issue of war, of peace, and of reconstruction. Our relations with non-Islamic countries, with the infidels, our relations with Muslims, and with the rest of the world, and our priorities here are among our chief problems. [passage omitted]

All this needs a lot of work and much discussion. We must continue with the work. We must ascertain the various aspects of Islam and the sovereign right of the rule of the jurisconsult, the sovereign right of others, the people's right to participate, (?and other examples of this kind). We have not yet tackled the day-to-day aspects of Islamic rule. We are still living under the rules inherited from the satanical regime. When our Majlis debates an issue, and doubts in matters of national jurisprudence are raised, we come into conflict with the Council of Guardians.

Every issue is not clear-cut, for that very Council of Guardians has differences of views on issues: Some of the jursprudents say one thing, others say something else. In the Majlis there are some learned people who give their opinion but their opinion is not in agreement with the opinions of the Council of Guardians. Of course, constitutionally it is up to the Council of Guardians to issue a ruling. We have to submit to their rulings. But all these things have to be resolved. [passage omitted]

**UK Foreign Office on Planned Howe-Velayati Talks**
*LD2409141788 Tehran IRNA in English 1358 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Text] London, Sept. 24, IRNA—Britain is expected to announce a restoration of its diplomatic relations with Iran following next week's meeting in New York between Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe and his Iranian counterpart Dr 'Ali Akbar Veyalati.

The British Government is understood to accept that relations must be based on mutual respect and has provisionally arranged for the meeting while both ministers are at the U.N. General Assembly on September 30.

The Foreign Office acknowledged Saturday that the talks, believed to be the first senior official contact between the two countries since the Islamic Revolution, would cover both U.K.-Iran relations and the question of representation.

It told IRNA that they had been arranged through normal diplomatic channels and would be preceded by a meeting between Iranian and British officials to "discuss the agenda."

The reported meeting set for next Tuesday in Geneva between undersecretary for the Middle East, Sir David Myers and a senior member of the Iranian Foreign Office, which some papers say will be Director General 'Ali Va'ezi, "would connect," the spokesman said.

Myers, a veteran diplomat serving as counsellor in Tehran between 1977 and 1979 and ambassador to Beirut from 1983 to 1985, was involved in talks with Iran's deputy foreign minister Dr Mohammad Javad Larijani, while changing flights at London airport at the end of August.

The latest moves from Britain follow a whole series of approaches by the British Government to rebuild bilateral ties that were soured over a year ago when an Iranian diplomat in the northern English city of Manchester was mistreated by British police.

Last month emissary David Reddaway was sent on a three-week visit to Tehran to test earlier approaches by a British parliamentary delegation that had been indirectly organised by the office of the archbishop of Canterbury.

This was followed by the dispatch of first secretary Gordon Pirie, with indepth experience of Iran, to promote British business interests at the Tehran Fair and the Foreign Office says that he is not now expected to return immediately.

The ministry spokesman also said that Howe's talks with Dr Velayati will take up the issue of implementing U.N. Resolution 598 and the related peace talks that have currently been blocked by Iraq.

"It will fit into a pattern of contacts by the foreign secretary," he explained and exampled Howe's meeting with Iraq's minister of state Sad'un Hammadi on September 21.

Britain's position was to "back the secretary general in every way" with the support of other permanent members of the Security Council to resolve the deadlock and to help definitive peace.

Howe leaves for New York Sunday and will seek out other foreign ministers during his attendance at the General Assembly. He had been expected to return after addressing the U.N. on Wednesday but is thought to have extended his stay to be able to meet Dr Velayati.

According to the British national news agency, the PRESS ASSOCIATION, Britain had originally suggested that the talks should be held in London but that Iran insisted it should take place in a third country.

The press here gives much prominence to the talks but predictions vary on the extent that Britain will upgrade its relations with Iran and whether full diplomatic ties will be effected immediately or take six months.

Some papers raise the issue of seeking Iran's help to free British hostages held in Lebanon as well as the possibility of Howe pleading for the release of two U.K. spies held in prison in Tehran, but neither is believed connected with the restoration of ties.

**Iraqi Germ Warfare Causes Al-Sulaymaniyh Typhoid**
*LD2509153788 Tehran IRNA in English 1520 GMT 25 Sep 88*

[Text] London, Sept. 25, IRNA—Further evidence has emerged from relief workers that Iraq has been using biological weapons in its genocide campaign against its Kurdish population and that it was responsible for the typhoid epidemic in Al-Sulaymaniyah.

News of the Baghdad regime using germ warfare first came from Kurdish doctors in London last week, who reported that the current epidemic fever in Al-Sulaymaniyah was man-made and had been cultured by Iraqi laboratory scientists.

According to THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH here, relief workers also believe that Iraq's use of biological weapons was responsible for the typhoid outbreak, which they say had reached "uncontrollable" proportions.

Doctors from the Kurdish-British medical support group (SMSK) [as received] said that the Iraqi regime had imposed a "complete news-blackout" over the epidemic and they were unable to contact hospitals in the stricken Kurdish city to find out the scale but the relief workers quoted reports that "scores of Kurds" had already died from the typhoid.

The main evidence provided by the doctors is the unique strain of the bacteria in contaminated water that has caused the epidemic and that it uncommonly excluded other associated organisms, such as cholera.

A previous typhoid outbreak in a Kurdish mountain village last year was easily controlled but the SMSK fear that because of the Iraqi action of isolating Kurdistan in its extermination programme, the virus could continue to be prevalent.

The use of germ warfare by Iraq is the latest in a long line of banned weapons it has used against the Kurds and which started with the regime's illicit use of poison and nerve gases against Iranian soldiers and civilians following its invasion of Iran in 1980.

Apart from deploying chemical weapons against its Kurdish community, Baghdad is known to have put thallium poison into food for the Kurds as well as using the rat poison in London to assassinate an Iraqi reportedly trying to defect from its intelligence service.

**Iraqi Convicted of Spying, Terrorism Executed**
*LD2609073488 Tehran IRNA in English 0731 GMT 26 Sep 88*

[Text] Bakhtaran, Sept. 26, IRNA—An Iraqi citizen convicted of spying in Iran and of planting bombs in this western Iran city and in Tehran for terrorist aims was executed here Monday morning.

The spy, Qotbuddin Faramarzi [name as received[ was court martialed and found guilty of various terrorist activities in addition to spying for the Iraqi Government.

**Navy Conducts 'Massive' Minesweeping Operation**
*LD2409113688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Sep 88*

[Text] A massive operation of minesweeping and cleaning the waterways of the northern Persian Gulf continued today as units of the second zone of the Iranian Navy, stationed in Bushehr, deployed all its resources for the task.

According to the Central News Unit, naval units, naval minesweeping vessels, frogmen, marines, nonclassic [ghayr-e klasik] units, special operational units, minesweeping helicopters, and air-sea flying corps for mine detection, and hovercraft units are engaged in these operations which began on 22 September, coinciding with the first day of Holy Defense Week. They will secure the safety of shipping in the international waterways of the northern Persian Gulf.

After completing these massive operations and ensuring themselves fully of the safety of the region's waterways for shipping, the participating units will take on the task of continually supervising these waterways.

**Testing of 'Longest-Range' Missiles Completed**
*LD2509003488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Excerpts] The Center for War Research of the Reconstruction Jihad has completed testing the largest and longest-range domestically manufactured missiles. The center is preparing the mass production of these missiles.

Construction Jihad Minister Gholamreza Foruzesh announced the news at a news conference on the Day of the People and Construction during Holy Defense Week. He described the wartime activities of the Jihad during 8 years of holy defense and that institute's programs, particularly concerning the reconstruction of the country. He said: A portion of the Jihad's activities has been put on exhibition in the form of photographs, films, mock-ups, and slides, at Laleh Park in Tehran. [passage omitted]

Regarding the future programs of the Jihad, he said: The Jihad will definitely play a part in the future government plans and the country's reconstruction. One should not trust foreigners in the matter of reconstruction. [passage omitted]

**Cabinet Denounces Lebanon's Military Government**
*LD2509133488 Tehran IRNA in English 1327 GMT 25 Sep 88*

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 25, IRNA—The Cabinet today denounced the coming to power of a military government in Lebanon as an act in favour of Israel and the West.

In its Sunday's session presided over by Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi, the cabinet also warned that recent developments in Lebanon might result in the country's partition.

Foreign Minister ?Ali Akbar Velayati presented the cabinet with a report on the latest developments in the Iran-Iraq peace talks and imminent visit of an Iranian delegation to U.N. Headquarters in New York for participation in the annual U.N. General Assembly meet.

In a short speech during the session Premier Hoseyn Musavi reiterated that Iran's position on the U.N.-mediated peace talks for implementation of the Security Council Resolution 598 in New York, will remain unchanged.

**Commentary on Political Crisis in Lebanon**
*LD2309140488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Sep 88*

[Station commentary]

[Text] According to the earliest reports which have reached Europe following the Christian militia coup, the Lebanese Muslim officers and senior commanders have refrained from joining the coup d'etat instigators. Also, the Lebanese Muslim political leaders declared the new military government unconstitutional and announced that they still regard the civilian government of Lebanese Prime Minister Salim al-Huss official. Following the Lebanese military coup, the parliamentary session of that country, which was to resume its activities today in order to elect the civilian president, was cancelled.

Amin al-Jumayyil, the Maronite civilian president of Lebanon, at about midnight last night, at the end of his 6-year presidential term, handed over the government to a military council comprised of six senior officers. Even though the new ruling military council has not mentioned the coup, General Michael Zahir, the Maronite commander of the coup, announced that he will present himself as the new Lebanese president today. Amin al-Jumayyil's decision was made in light of the Lebanese Parliament's failure to elect a new president.

Based on the ancient and inherited colonialist custom of Lebanon, a president is chosen by Parliament from among Maronite figures. The Lebanese Muslims, however, actually demanded the the implementation of democratic principles and the presidential election through general voting and warned that they will no longer accept the previous form of government.

Last night's Lebanese military coup exacerbated the possibility of a resumption of civil war in Lebanon following yesterday's assassination of 3 Amal militia commanders in southern Lebanon.

Experts on Lebanon in Europe believe that the inauguration of a military government in Lebanon—despite an effort by the Maronite minority of this country to continue their authority among the non-Maronite majority of Lebanon—is nevertheless a political error committed by this party. It will provide an excellent opportunity for the resumption of the bloody civil war. However, in the end, the losers of this civil war will not be the Muslims.

Amin al-Jumayyil, before leaving the Lebanese presidential palace, made a surprise trip to Damascus, but apparently his talks with Hafiz al-Asad did not bring about a solution to the political crisis regarding the election of the Lebanese president. It is said that the Syrian leaders previously agreed to the U.S. formula for the election of Michael Zahir, the 60-year-old Maronite as president of Lebanon.

**IRNA Reports Details of War Damage**
*LD2309131488 Tehran IRNA in English 0905 GMT 23 Sep 88*

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 23, IRNA—The almost 8 years of the Iraqi war has left a trial of death and destruction in the western provinces of the Islamic Republic. The Ba'thist regime's aggression which started on 22 September 1980, has wiped out entire towns and villages in some of the border areas.

The once thriving cities of Khorramshahr, Qasr-e Shirin and Mehran are almost ghost towns, while in Abadan, the world's largest refinery lies in total shambles. Even livestock and farm lands have not escaped the Iraqi regime's barbarity.

Baghdad rulers' gruesome crimes have not been confined to border areas, for elsewhere in Iran schools, hospitals and residential and industrial units, extending from the southern shores of the Caspian Sea to islands in the Persian Gulf have all been the target of Iraqi bombing and missile attacks.

In several areas historical mosques and ancient monuments on the list of the world's cultural heritage have sadly served as target practice for the Iraqi regime, resulting in incalculable loss for humanity as a whole.

The amount of damage—leaving aside the human loss—seems to be quite exorbitant. But with the end of the imposed war in sight and prospects of the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598 seemingly bright, it is not a bad idea to reflect on the magnitude of destruction unleashed by the Iraqi regime.

In fact Article 7 of Resolution 598 guarantees assessment of damage and possible reparations after due inspection by U.N. experts.

Khuzestan

The following is an account of damage inflicted on several towns and cities in the southwestern province of Khuzestan which bore the brunt of Iraqi attacks during the almost 8 years of the imposed war.

Dezful: More than 20,000 houses were destroyed and damaged in Dezful during the Iraqi air and missile attacks on the city, said Mayor Baghban adding that the Iraqi regime lobbed over 200 surface-to-surface missiles into the city.

In addition to the houses, more than 1,700 shops, 122 government offices and 80 mosques were either destroyed or damaged, said the mayor noting that during Dezful's shelling by Iraqi long-range artillery fire from October 4, 1980 to February 15, 1982 alone more than 900 houses and 19 shops were also ruined and damaged.

Shushtar: Further south in Shushtar town, Iraqi air raids ruined and damaged 700 plus houses and shops during the war, said Mayor Mohammad Ebrahim Bakhshi-pur. During the indiscriminate enemy attacks, he added, 16 mosques and six public baths among the country's cultural heritages were destroyed or damaged.

Ramhormoz: While in Ramhormoz, more than 900 houses were destroyed and damaged in addition to education offices and five schools during the Iraqi air and missile attacks on the town. The town's mayor said Iraqi warplanes four times bombed the Ramhormoz oil pump station which sends oil to Esfahan, inflicting damage on it. Some 28,000 square meters of the irigation networks was also damaged.

Andimeshk: In Andimeshk, 2,163 houses and 528 shops were destroyed or damaged during Iraqi air and missile attacks, said Mayor Asaqdollah Mo'tamed, adding that the Iraqi regime fired 25 surface-to-surface missiles into Andimeshk. A hospital, a clinic, six schools and five mosques, town's main power generators, Dez dam power station and some communications networks were among the places which sustained damage.

Mo'tamed put the losses at more than 2 billion rials (about $30 million) besides the 110 million rials ($1.55 million] damage inflicted on municipal facilities and installatons.

Susangerd: Iraqi attacks on Susangerd destroyed or damaged 6,254 houses, 611 shops, 95 stores, 13 government offices, 16 educational centers, a stadium, 13 mosques and the town's main park. Some 106 houses of civil servants, a bridge, two ice factories, a cinema, a public bath, two flour factories and water and power installations were also ruined or damaged.

Bostan: In Bostan enemy attacks destroyed and damaged over 2,500 houses, 500 shops, 30 houses of civil servants, 20 government offices, ten educational centers and two mosques.

Shadegan: In Shadegan seven houses, two shops, and asphalt factory, a date-packing unit, the town's park, a hospital and radio-television building were ruined or damaged as a result of the Iraqi air and artillery attacks.

Khorramshahr: The once thriving port city of Khorramshahr stands as testimony to the savagery of the aggressor. More than 23,000 house, 2,000 shops, 435 industrial units lie in total ruins, said the city's mayor Ra'ufi. 94 educational and cultural centers, two universities, a big stadium and six cultural organizations were totally destroyed during the Iraqi occupation of the city, he added.

Among other places which were totally destroyed by the intruding forces are six cultural centers, Khorramshahr customs office including 13 jetties, warehouses, railway station, a soap factory, shipping yards and installations of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC).

The mayor put the losses inflicted on Khorramshahr roads, streets, squares and the main bridge at 3 billion rials ($40 millions), and the losses to the city sewage at one billion rials ($13 millions). He said 30 government offices and revolutionary institutions suffered damage from 30 to 100 percent besides eight medical centers, three rural and five urban clinics. Some 4.7 billion rials losses were also inflicted on water, power and communications network of the city, he added.

During the enemy invasion, said the mayor, high rise buildings of the city were levelled to the ground and all amenities were plundered by enemy troops. The intruding forces also plundered 5,000 automobiles, large quantities of raw materials from factories and several power reactors of Neka power generation plant. Several Iranian and foreign ships berthed at the port were also sunk and their cargo plundered by the Iraqi forces, he added.

Imam Khomeyni port: In Bandar-e Imam Khomeyni, Iraqi warplanes damaged 28 houses in Sar Bandar District in 1981, and 1987 enemy air raids caused damage to several industrial units, the Iran-Japan petro-chemical complex, an aluminium factory, Razi chemical plant, railway station and port installations.

Abadan: In Abadan some 52,170 houses, shops, government buildings, medical and recreation centers, 1245 industrial units, 117 educational centers and 91 religious sites are lying in various stages of ruin because of the Iraqi-imposed war, said Mayor of Abadan 'Abdolreza Tashakkori.

Tashakkori said that Abadan's residential units were destroyed between 12.74 to 86.26 percent, shops between 11.76 to 88.28 percent, government buildings and recreation centers between 19.41 to 70.59 percent, medical centers between 15.64 to 74.26 percent, industrial units between 29.76 to 70.28 percent, religious places between 17.58 to 81.41 percent and educational centers between 44.09 to 55.91 percent. At least 80 percent of the city's oil and petrochemical installations including the oil refinery once the world's largest with a capacity for producing 600,000 barrels per day, were destroyed in the war, he said.

The city's mayor added that communication installations including two 2,000-digit and one 1,000-digit telephone centers and radio communication facilities with more than 1000 canals lie in total shambles while the sewage system with four pumping stations was destroyed by 50 to 70 percent.

On the extent of damage inflicted on the city's waterworks, he said that five water filtration centers with a combined capacity of 86,000 cubic meters per day, 140 kms of piped water network, 40 water reservoirs with a total capacity of 15,000 cubic meters were destroyed by 50 to 100 percent.

He also said the extent of damage inflicted on the radio-T.V. station and on two 200-meter span bridges in the city has been estimated at 80 percent and 45 to 100 percent respectively.

One million out of an estimated four million date palms in the city were completely uprooted while the remainder have suffered damage between 25 to 50 percent, he said.

Tashakkori said the Abadan airport including the main terminal was destroyed by 20 to 40 percent, while the runway by 40 to 60 percent and fire department by 60 to 70 percent. Abadan's 125-km suburban piped water network was totally destroyed, he added.

Arvand Kenar [name as received]: The Abadan mayor also enumerated the extent of damage inflicted on the Arvand Kenar, a township of 20,000 people on the outskirts of Abadan as follows:

Administrative offices and the main market with a total area of 3,000 square meters and 24,000 square meters of asphalt by 100 percent, 11 bridges by 20 to 50 percent. Parks with 1,026 date palms and covering an area of 1,200 square meters suffered 90 to 100 percent damage while 75 houses, religious sites, recreation centers and banks by 80 percent. Some 94 educational centers at Arvand Kenar and nearby villages, 50 rural medical centers, five rural welfare centers and 90 kms of asphalted road were destroyed or damaged.

In the very beginning of the war in 1980, 100,000 villagers living in Abadan's suburbs had to leave their agricultural products and livestock behind. All livestock starved or were killed in the war and the agricultural products the most important of which was date went bad in the rain.

Tashakkori noted that because of the large extent of damage and vast area of the region the afore-said figures may somewhat differ from the real ones which should be determined by experts.

Shush: In the historical town of Shush northwest of Ahvaz, some 2,270 residential units and 260 trade centers were destroyed or damaged during the Iraqi-imposed war, said Shush Mayor 'Alimorad Musavi.

Iraqi air, artillery and mortar attacks on the from [as received] September 25, 1980 to March 22, 1983 devastated several government buildings including the town hall, waterworks, Construction Jihad Hqs, communication office, physical education center and a hospital, he said.

The town's museum was totally destroyed and the holy shrine of Prophet Daniel (A.S.) damaged during the enemy air and artillery attack, Musavi said.

He said 241 (11 and 33 kilo watt) transmitters, 1,419 high voltage pylons, 220 kms of high voltage cables, two 11 and 22 kilo watt circuits and 2,511 low voltage pylons in Shush have been destroyed during the imposed war.

Musavi said that the extent of damage inflicted on the town has been estimated at rials 993.857 million ($14 million).

Masjed-e Soleyman: Five billion rials ($70.42 million) worth of damage was inflicted on Masjed-e Soleyman, 188 kms northeast of Ahvaz where 2,200 houses, 700 shops, 10 educational centers and a cinema were the butt of Iraqi missile and air attacks, said the city's mayor. The mayor said that heavy losses have also been inflicted on "Martyr 'Abbaspur" dam and on the town's urban installations including government offices, electricity installations, streets, sewage system and a cold storage.

Mahshahr: The town's power station and water works sustained heavy losses as a result of Iraqi air attacks, said Mahshahr Mayor Naser Baqerzadeh. Baqerzadeh said a estimated damage of rials 591.9 m. ($8.33 M.) and rials 70 M. ($986,000) have been inflicted on the town's power station and water works.

Hoveyzeh: In Hoveyzeh town some 1,200 housese, 500 trade centers and nine educational units were totally destroyed during the Iraqi-imposed war, Mayor 'Abdolamir Soltani-Nejad said.

Soltani-Nejad said that all urban installations and administrative centers of the town including four parks, a slaughter house, a mortuary, a brick plant, a medical center and several government offices were levelled to the ground by the enemy. Several religious sites in Hoveyzeh including three mosques dating 300 years or more were also demolished during the ememy occupation of the town beginning from January 8, 1981 and lasting until May 8, 1982, he said. He said that a sports stadium, a public library and halls with a combined area of 45,000 square meters were also razed by the enemy troops.

Behbahan: The town's mayor Mohammad Farzadi told IRNA that a total of 550 houses and three educational and cultural centers were destroyed in the enemy air attacks on Behbahan. During the enemy's savage air raids on Behbahan, several goverment buildings and municipal centers were also damaged, he said.

Hendijan (southeast of Ahvaz): Mayor Habibollah Soheylpur disclosed the extent of damage inflicted on the town during the imposed war. Soheylpur said that 76 residential units and 10 trade centers were wiped out and heavy losses inflicted on the urban installations in the enemy bombing. A maternity hospital was demolished and another medical center destroyed by 45 percent by enemy warplanes, he concluded.

Gachsaran (Bovir Ahmadi va Kohkiluyeh Prov.): The indiscriminate Iraqi bombings have inflicted a loss of 50 million rials ($704,225) on educational, housing and industrial units of Gachsaran, said Mayor Esma'il Tabadar. The said figure excludes damage to the city's oil installations, he added. Gachsaran's oil and gas installations were repeatedly targetted by Iraqi warplanes resulting in heavy life and material losses, said the mayor.

Tabadar elaborated that during an Iraqi air raid on a high-voltage power generating system in the oil fields, ten classrooms or a nearby educational unit and two houses were completely destroyed, causing an estimated loss of 50 million rials ($704,225) alone.

Zanjan: Iraqi air attacks on residential and civilian areas during 8 years of the imposed war inflicted a damage of 1.85 billion rials ($26 million). Mayor of Zanjan Bahman Rashedi said.

He said the Iraqi air raids destroyed and damaged 1,723 houses, shops, educational, sports and religious centers as well as municipal installations. Residential areas including 1,594 houses bore the brunt of Iraqi attack, suffering losses to the tune of one billion rials, Rashedi said.

Hamadan: Residential areas of Hamadan have been bombed 59 times by Iraqi warplanes since the start of the Baghdad regime's aggression on Iran, revealed Hamadan Mayor Mohammad Behnam.

Behnam said that more than 9,128 residential units, trade centers and government offices were destroyed by 30 to 100 percent in Iraqi bombardments resulting in an estimated loss of rials 8.32 billion ($113.1 million). At least 2,875 residents of Hamadan were martyred and wounded during the five rounds of the so-called war of cities initiated by the Ba'thist rulers of Iraq, he said.

In the course of the Iraqi-imposed war, Behnam said, five religious places, 12 educational units, four medical centers including a children's hospital and three historical monuments in Hamadan sustained heavy damage in enemy air attacks.

Malayer (in Hamadan Prov.): Iraq's 6 air raids on Malayer town since the start of its almost 8 year long war has martyred and wounded 400 residents and inflicted an estimated loss of rials 1.395 billion ($19.6 million) on the town, said Malayer Mayor Taher-Piri.

Piri said Iraqi warplanes in the course of their six bombing missions on Malayer, destroyed or damaging over 2,662 housing units, shops, government offices, medical and educational centes andmosques. As a result the town's only hospital "Fakhriyeh" is in total ruins and a total of 480 houses, shops and government offices were destroyed by 30 to 100 percent, he said.

Over the said period, Piri said, 19 educational units including two kindergartens, five mosques and 157 vehicles of various types sustained heavy damage during the five rounds of Baghdad's so-called war of cities.

Bakhtaran: Over 78 billion rials (about $1 billion) of losses were inflicted on farms, pasture lands, jungles, and animal husbandry centers of Bakhtaran Province during the almost eight-years of Iraqi aggression.

Director-general for agricultural affairs of the province Ja'fari announcing the above said besides the above losses experts are working to estimate the damage to land-water resources and construction installations of the province, he added.

Ja'fari said over 70,000 hectares of agricultural and more than 300 hectares of rich natural resources located along the borders in the western province could not be used during the war which he said greatly reduced the agricultural output of the province.

Qasr-e Shirin: The Iraqi occupation the border town of Qasr-e Shirin in the beginning of the imposed war caused destruction of over 7,000 residential units housing 60,000 local people, said Mayor 'Abdol 'Ali Esfandiari. He said, Qasr-e Shirin, now in total ruins, contained

several historical monuments dating back to the pre-Islamic Sassanid era. After occupying Qasr-e Shirin in 1980, Iraqi troops indulged vandalism destroying all historical monuments, houses, shops, industrial units, educational and medical centers in the town, he said.

When Iran's Muslim combatants finally purged Qasr-e Shirin of Iraqi troops they faced a debris mound with a few broken walls and burned date palms as the only signs of the once picturesque town which was famous for its ancient monuments, he said.

The mayor added that besides the destruction of 7,000 houses, Iraqi troops also demolished 1,800 trade centers, 55 educational centers, 19 medical units, 70 industrial plants and 8 mosques. Twelve parks and recreation centers, two cinemas, 37 hotels and guest houses, 14 streets with all their facilities, a radio-T.V. station, and scores of government offices were among the places devastated during the Iraqi occupation of the town, he said.

Esfandiari refused to comment on the extent of damage inflicted on the historical town of Qasr-e Shirin, citing the huge volume of devastated areas and said that experts should assess the total losses.

## Pakistan

### President Discusses Elections, Other Issues

*BK2409162088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan said that he made a firm commitment not only to maintain the freedom of the press, but also to uphold all democratic values and fulfill all constitutional provisions. He said this while addressing the executive committee of the Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors [CPNE] in Islamabad today.

He said he believes that the surest guarantee of the survival of the country is to sincerely implement the tenets of Islam and adopt the path of true democracy to achieve our goal. The president reiterated his resolve to hold free, fair and impartial elections as scheduled, and no one—no matter what position he holds—will be allowed to influence the electoral results through unlawful means. He said there will be no change in the election date. He said that he has made no change in the election program, nor does he want to make any change in it.

Ghulam Ishaq Khan said that the press and political parties should cooperate with him so that the elections are held in an orderly manner in a peaceful atmosphere, free from violence and confrontation. He emphasized that the people, political parties, and the newspapers must extend full cooperation to the government in this task. He said the next elections should reflect the real wishes and aspirations of the people. For this, it is necessary to ensure the participation of the maximum number of people in the elections. The president said that complete peace and order is absolutely necessary during the electoral campaigning, polling, and counting of votes.

He expressed hope that the press will play a very positive role by providing healthy training to people on every aspect of the democratic process. The president asked the newspapers to work with moderation and balance while dealing with political reports. He cautioned that any default in this regard may poison the atmosphere, which would not be bad just for democracy, but for the nation as well.

The president also drew the attention of the press to its responsibility regarding foreign relations. He said that we have gained some far-reaching and major successes due to a foreign policy based on bold principles. It is our duty to make wholehearted efforts to maintain these successes and not allow them to wither away. The president said that these successes were the outcome of a prolonged and untiring struggle. President Ghulam Ishaq Khan said that prudence dictates us not to put these successes in jeopardy due to any default or short-sightedness.

He stressed that a reasonable and balanced attitude should be adopted while making criticism over the differences with any country. To maintain the high values of a responsible press, it is necessary to refrain from being influenced by emotional appeals. The president said that he has complete faith in the freedom of the press and he believes that new freedom will be enjoyed by the press for the promotion of national integrity, solidarity, and security and with the spirit of patriotism and responsibility.

The president expressed hope that the CPNE executive committee and its officials will play an important role in promoting free and responsible journalism.

Ghulam Ishaq Khan thanked the editors for presenting his government's policies and decisions to the people in a positive and constructive manner and providing him with the valuable suggestions of the editors themselves, the political leaders and thinkers through their editorials and articles.

### Defends Interim Cabinet Functions

*BK2509031688 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Text] Talking to the CPNE [Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors] standing committee members, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan said he considers the retention of interim cabinets as a constitutional obligation because where the Constitution refers to the responsibilities of the president for holding the general elections, simultaneously it provided for the creation of an interim cabinet.

Asked about the role of the interim cabinet till the election date, the president said the framers of the Constitution had thought retention of the interim governments as necessary because they wanted to keep things going. The affairs of the state, he added, could not stop even for a day, a week, or a month. He, however, gave a categorical assurance that every possible step under the law would be taken to ensure that members of interim governments did not take any undue advantage of their position. They would not be permitted to manipulate things in their favor.

In reply to another question, he said there is no democratic tradition in a parliamentary form of government where the government in power relinquished at the (?very) time of poll. Under the Pakistani Constitution, anybody could be made a minister for a period of 6 months without being a member of any house. He could contest the elections while remaining in office.

Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan said it would be his endeavor to see that there is no violation of the Constitution or any relevant law with regard to permitting parties or groups from contesting elections. The rights of the parties and the groups have been fully covered by the judgment of the Supreme Court.

In reply to another question, the president said he would welcome any political leader to meet him for an exchange of views.

Asked if he had received any report from Mr F.K. Bindial, whom he had appointed as coordinator of inquiry to the Bahawalpur air crash, he said he had received an interim report but had not been able to see it so far. The president said he would not like to conceal any fact, if it was not against the overall national interest.

When his attention was drawn to the increase in the number of violations by Kabul planes, the president said Pakistan has taken due notice of these violations at the diplomatic level. Pakistan has so far downed three Afghan planes and will do it again if violations are continued in future.

### 16 Afghan Aircraft Bomb Villages in Dir District

*BK2309144988 Hong Kong AFP in English 1430 GMT 23 Sep 88*

[Text] Peshawar, Sept 23 (AFP)—The Afghan Air Force on Friday carried out another attack into Pakistani territory, killing five people and wounding six, reliable sources here said.

Sixteen Afghan aircraft bombed Amlok and Chamo villages in Dir District at 11:55 A.M (0655 GMT), about 100 kilometers north of Peshawar in western Pakistan and about 20 kilometers into Pakistan, they said.

In Amlok, four children swimming in a river were killed on the spot and four others were wounded. In Chamo, a villager was killed and two others were wounded, the sources said.

Two Pakistani Air Force planes chased the Afghan planes but were unable to intervene before the Afghans reached home air space, the sources said.

### Bomb Kills 5 Persons

*BK2309151588 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Sep 88*

[Text] Sixteen Afghan aircraft violated Pakistan's airspace at 1155 hours this morning [0655 GMT] in Dir District and bombed two villages—Amlokdarra and (Machchkilli)—killing five persons and injuring three others. The Dir deputy commissioner told Radio Pakistan's Peshwar correspondent that the injured have been admitted to the (Talakdarra) district headquarters hospital.

### Official on 'Serious Violation'

*BK2309163488 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 23 Sep 88*

[Excerpts] Sixteen Afghan aircraft violated Pakistan's airspace in Dir District today and bombarded two villages—Amlokdarra and (Machchukilli). [passage omitted]

A Foreign Office official said Pakistan has taken note of the serious violation and will take appropriate step. The violation has come at a time when the UN General Assembly is to consider Afghanistan issue in the context of post-Geneva accord situation. Pakistan is to draw the attention of the world body to frequent violations by the Kabul regime.

### 'Strong' Protest Lodged

*BK2409153288 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 sep 88*

[Text] Pakistan has lodged a strong protest against the unprovoked attack by Afghan aircraft in Dir yesterday. The charge d'affairs of the Kabul regime was summoned to the Foreign Office today and was asked to inform his administration that if these types of attacks are not stopped, then they will be fully responsible for the serious consequences.

According to details now available, many Afghan aircraft entered Pakistani territory up to 27 kilometers in Nawagai at 1153 hours [0653 GMT] yesterday violating Pakistan's airspace and dropping eight bombs on Amlokdarra and (Machchukilli) killing five persons, including a child, and injuring five others. All of them are Pakistani nationals. Three of the injured are in critical condition.

### USSR Urged To Observe Fully Geneva Accords

*BK2509090888 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Mohammad Yamin Commentary]

[Text] In clear infringement of international law and the Geneva accords, the Kabul regime (?Air Force) continues with its repeated violations of Pakistan's airspace and wanton bombing raids deep inside its territory. Yesterday's air strike against two villages in Dir District was the fourth such attack against Pakistan this month. (?Yesterday's) attack was the most serious. As many as (?16) aircraft intruded into the Pakistani airspace and dropped eight bombs, killing five persons, including four children and injuring five more.

At a time when the UN General Assembly is in session and is to consider, among other questions, the post-Geneva accord situation in Afghanistan, such hostile acts on part of the Kabul regime may make little sense. Apart from inflicting death and injury on innocent civilians and damage to property [passage indistinct] of the Najibullah administration should take a note of the ugly situation being created by Kabul and restrain it from the irresponsible adventures in which it has of late indulged with ever greater frequency and intensity.

The Geneva accords were the result of the long-drawn negotiations in which Pakistan participated earnestly as a party which was affected seriously by the physical occupation of a small neighboring country by a superpower. This has triggered a fierce resistance close to its borders and a heavy influx of refugees into its territory raising a variety of political and socioeconomic problems for the Pakistani people. Although Geneva accords did not go even half way toward a comprehensive settlement of the problem, which had acquired great complexity over the years, Pakistan welcomed the accord as these provided for the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan. Pakistan recognized this as a major step toward the final settlement of the problem. It is, therefore, [word indistinct] about observing the provisions of the accord sincerely to pave the way for the next phase of settlement during which a broad-based government at Kabul would bring about an end to the fighting inside Afghanistan, enable the honorable return of the Afghan refugees to their homeland and prepare the ground for the Afghan people to exercise their right to elect the government of their own choice.

It is regrettable that instead of reciprocating Pakistan's constructive approach toward resolving the remaining tangles of the problem, Pakistan is not only being subjected to unabashed acts of aggression but also being unjustly branded as a party violating the Geneva accords. Aside from its moral responsibility in the context of Afghanistan as the power, whose uncalled for intervention caused the problem in the first instance, the Soviet Union, being a permanent member of the Security Council, is bound by the UN Charter to play a vital role in the maintenance of security around the world. In this crucial hour of the region's history, the people of Pakistan would watch anxiously for the Soviet Union to fulfill its obligations toward the promotion of international peace in this part of the world.

### 4 Reported Killed in Karachi East Clashes

*BK2409030088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Text] A press note issued by the Karachi East district magistrate says that one person was killed and five others were injured in an exchange of fire. The firing followed a shooting by certain troublemakers near a location where a meeting was taking place on Thursday night [22 September], forcing the participants of the meeting to return fire. Two policemen were also slightly hurt. Steps are being taken to arrest the criminals.

Another press note issued by the Karachi East district magistrate says that several persons were injured in a clash between two rival parties at Nizami Road yesterday. Three of the injured died later. The troublemakers damaged a gasoline station, set fire to a bus, and fired at police patrolling the area—wounding one assistant subinspector of police and three constables. A magisterial inquiry has been ordered concerning the incident.

### 25 Sep Bomb Blast in Peshawar Injures 8

*BK2509062288 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 25 Sep 88*

[Text] There was a bomb blast in the general bus stand in Peshawar this morning, in which eight people were injured. The injured were taken to Lady Reading hospital immediately. The bomb was planted in the engine of a bus.

## Sri Lanka

### AFP: New Minister Assassinated in Colombo

*BK2609122388 Hong Kong AFP in English 1212 GMT 26 Sep 88*

[Text] Colombo, Sept 26 (AFP)—An unidentified gunman Monday assassinated a Sri Lankan cabinet minister at his home near here, security sources said.

Lionel Jayatileka was shot in the face and died instantly, the sources said. Details were not immediately available.

Mr. Jayatileka was brought into the cabinet recently as minister in charge of reconstruction and rehabilitaion. The sources said a bodyguard and a driver of Mr. Jayatileka were wounded in the attack.

Mr. Jayatileka, 64, is the most senior member of the Colombo Cabinet to be gunned down.

Similar attacks on ruling United National Party (UNP) officials have been blamed on the anti-government Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP—People's Liberation Front).

The Sinhalese militant JVP has claimed the assassinations of UNP Chairman Harsha Abeywardene and its Secretary Nandalal Fernando since December.

The group is violently opposed to the July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord and has been accused of killing over 300 UNP activists, security personnel and leftists backing the peace plan.

Mr. Jayatileka was regarded here as a strong supporter of the peace plan which sought to end a bloody Tamil separatist campaign. New Delhi has some 49,000 troops in the island's north and east under the accord.

### Colombo Reports Assassination

*BK2609130488 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 26 Sep 88*

[Text] The minister of rehabilitation and reconstruction, Lionel Jayatileka, was shot at by three unidentified gunmen at 1500 [0930 GMT] today when he was on his way to the (Vidyangada) temple at Kuliyapitiya.

LANKAPUVATH says he succumbed to his injuries at the Kuliyapitiya hospital. Others injured were a subinspector of police [name indistinct] and his driver.

### LTTE Demands Invitation for Talks With India

*BK2409075088 Hong Kong AFP in English 0701 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Excerpt] Colombo, Sept 24 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's top Tamil separatist group demanded an invitation for high-level talks with New Delhi as a ceasefire in fighting between rebels and Indian troops entered its penultimate day Saturday [24 September].

An Indian official said Tamil groups were trying to have the ceasefire extended further. India declared a five-day truce September 15 and extended it for another five days at the request of prominent Tamil citizens.

No violations of the ceasefire, scheduled to end Sunday, have yet been reported, but there has still been no positive response from the LTTE to Indian demands for it to surrender arms and enter politics, Indian officials said.

A statement issued Friday by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)'s political leader in the eastern town of Batticaloa said the LTTE would not participate in any peace talks unless officially invited to do so.

The statement also accused Indian troops of killing hundreds of innocent civilians and destroying property in the region during its 11-month bush war with the LTTE.

New Delhi has refused to hold official talks until the LTTE surrenders arms and accepts the July 1987 Indo-Sri Lankan accord which sought to end a bloody Tamil separatist campaign. [passage omitted]

### Indian Spokesman Rules Out Cease-Fire Extension

*BK2409160688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Sep 88*

[Text] An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that the government had already made it clear that the cease-fire in Sri Lanka as announced by the peacekeeping force will not be extended again. Replying to newsmen, he said there is no change in the government's stand. The cease-fire is due to expire at 0700 tomorrow morning.

Meanwhile, the citizens committee members of the Northeast Province of Sri Lanka met the Indian high commissioner, Mr J.N. Dixit, in Colombo today. They are reported to have discussed the efforts made by them to bring the LTTE to the negotiating table. The outcome of the meeting is still not known. Our correspondent in Jaffna says the meeting is significant because of the extended cease-fire with the LTTE which is to end tomorrow morning.

### Cease-Fire Ends 'Without Results'

*BK2509045288 Hong Kong AFP in English 0337 GMT 25 Sep 88*

[Excerpt] Colombo, Sept 25 (AFP)—A New Delhi-declared ceasefire to allow Sri Lankan Tamil guerrillas to surrender their arms ended early Sunday [25 September] without results, the Indian High Commission (embassy) here said.

A five-day ceasefire began September 15, and was later extended by five more days following appeals by prominent Tamils to give the rebels more time to abandon their armed struggle and rejoin the political mainstream.

"We didn't have any response from the LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) from the very beginning. The ceasefire ended at 7.00 a.m. (0130 GMT) Sunday," a high commission spokeswoman said.

Some 49,000 Indian troops have been deployed in Sri Lanka's north and east in line with a July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord which sought to end a bloody Tamil separatist conflict.

The LTTE, the most powerful militant group, initially accepted the peace plan but later repudiated it, prompting a major Indian offensive October 10 to disarm the group.

Since then, nearly 600 Indian troops and more than 2,000 suspected LTTE men have died in bitter fighting. [passage omitted]